

Travel industry fears damage from a long government shutdown

Associated Press

America's busiest airport, Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International, is a blur of activity on the best of days. But an extra layer of anxiety gripped the airport Friday, the eve of a three-day holiday weekend. The partial government shut-down — the longest ever — has thinned the ranks of federal workers who staff airport security lines. And some travelers had braced for the worst.

"I have a 3 o'clock flight, and I arrived at 10:15 a.m.," Beth Lambert said while waiting to check in at a Delta Air Lines counter as her 5-year-old, Michael, rode around on his wheeled bag like a scooter. "We're going to be hanging out for a while." The scene at most of the nation's airports has so far been marked more by concerned passengers showing up early than by missed flights.

Continued on Page 3



Passengers wait in line at a security checkpoint at Miami International Airport, Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, in Miami. The three-day holiday weekend is likely to bring bigger airport crowds.

Associated Press



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Trump, North Korean leader to hold 2nd summit

By MATTHEW LEE and DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will hold a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to try to broker a deal to coax the North to give up its nuclear program, the White House announced Friday.

News of a second meeting with the reclusive North Korean leader came after Trump met at the White House for 90 minutes with a North Korean envoy, Kim Yong Chol, who had traveled to Washington to discuss denuclearization talks. Trump and Kim Jong Un are to meet near the end of February at a place to be announced at a later day, said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

She called the Oval Office meeting "productive" and said the U.S. and North Korea would continue to have conversations with hopes that North Korea would give up its nuclear weapons capabilities.

"The United States is going



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, right, and Kim Yong Chol, a North Korean senior ruling party official and former intelligence chief, pose for photographs at the The Dupont Circle Hotel in Washington, Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

to continue to keep pressure and sanctions on North Korea until we see fully and verified denuclearization," Sanders said "We've had very good steps and good faith from the North Koreans in releasing the hostages and other moves. And so we're going to continue those conversations and the president looks forward to the next meeting."

In May, North Korea released three American detainees and sent them home with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo after

his 90-minute meeting with the North Korean leader in Pyongyang. Weeks later, Trump had his first, historic meeting with Kim Jong Un in June in Singapore, but little tangible progress has been made on a vague

denuclearization agreement crafted at that summit. No details have been released about how denuclearization could occur. The North Korean emissary met earlier with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at a Washington hotel and they were reconvening after the White House meeting.

Trump has spoken several times of having a second summit early this year and has exchanged multiple letters with Kim.

Since the first one, several private analysts have published reports detailing continuing North Korean development of nuclear and missile technology. A planned meeting between Pompeo and the envoy, who is North Korea's former spy chief, in New York last November was called off

abruptly. U.S. officials said at the time that North Korea had canceled the session.

The talks have stalled over North Korea's refusal to provide a detailed accounting of its nuclear and missile facilities that would be used by inspectors to verify any deal to dismantle them.

The North has demanded that the U.S. end harsh economic penalties and provide security guarantees before the North takes any steps beyond its initial suspension of nuclear and missile tests.

Vice President Mike Pence said Wednesday that the U.S. is still awaiting "concrete steps" by North Korea to dismantle the nuclear weapons that threaten our people and our allies in the region. □

Jimmy Carter: Trump should form advisory panel on China



This Sept. 12, 2018, file photo shows former President Jimmy Carter, 93, answering questions from students during his annual town hall with Emory University in Atlanta.

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Jimmy Carter said Friday he believes President Donald Trump would benefit from a few behind-the-scenes advisers who could help improve U.S. relations with China.

Speaking at the Carter Center in Atlanta, the former president said he relied during his presidency on an informal group of scholars, retired diplomats and other experts for advice on U.S.

relations with Japan.

"Just have a very small group — I'd say about six — of distinguished people who have faith and confidence," Carter said, given "the need for future understanding and the avoidance of conflict between our two countries."

He added: "When I get home I'm going to draft a private letter to President Trump and put this in succinct language. Most presi-

dents don't like to read multi-page letters."

Carter's remarks came during a symposium marking 40 years since the U.S. and China struck an agreement to normalize diplomatic relations during Carter's presidency.

Carter counts the breakthrough with China among the top accomplishments of his presidency. The two countries normalized diplomatic relations on Jan. 1, 1979, following an agreement that Carter and Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping announced on Dec. 15, 1978.

Carter made no direct mention of the trade battle now being waged between the two countries.

China's ambassador to the U.S., Cui Tiankai, joined Carter for the event and said "it has never been so important for China and the United States to work together." "The consequences of miscalculation resulting from misunderstanding and misinterpretation can be much more serious than ever before," the ambassador said. □



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FLIGHT INDUSTRY

Continued from Front

Longer lines are evident at some airports. But delays resulting from a rise in federal security screeners calling in sick have been slight.

Yet concern is quickly growing. President Donald Trump and Democrats in Congress remain far apart over Trump's insistence on funding for a wall along the Mexican border as the price of reopening the government. With the two sides trading taunts and avoiding talks, travel industry analysts and economists have been calculating the potential damage should the shutdown drag into February or beyond.

Airlines and hotels would suffer. So would parks and restaurants that cater to travelers. And, eventually, the broader U.S. economy, already absorbing a trade war with China and a global economic slowdown, would endure another blow.

The travel and tourism industries generate about \$1.6 trillion in U.S. economic activity — one-twelfth of the economy — and one in 20 jobs, according to the Commerce Department. Macroeconomic Advisers says it now expects the economy to expand at just a 1.4 percent annual rate in the first three months of this year, down from its previous forecast of 1.6 percent, because of reduced government spending during the shutdown.

America's air-travel system will face its sternest this weekend, which coincides with Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, a federal

holiday. The Transportation Security Administration predicts it will screen over 8 million passengers between Friday and Monday, up 10.8 percent from last year's MLK weekend. And it will do so with fewer screeners. On Thursday, the TSA said 6.4 percent of screeners missed work — nearly double the 3.8 percent rate on the same day in 2018.

A TSA spokesman said the agency was offering overtime to screeners for this weekend, though those workers wouldn't be paid — for their regular pay or for overtime— until the shutdown eventually ends. On top of potentially longer airport security lines this weekend, a blast of winter weather could snarl travel this weekend in the Midwest and Northeast. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, home to Delta Air Lines, has likely been the hardest hit airport. Delta said this week that the shutdown will cost it \$25 million in January because fewer federal employees and contractors will be flying. By contrast, United Airlines, which has a substantial presence around Washington, D.C., said it hasn't felt much impact yet.

But the airlines fear that if the shutdown doesn't end soon, more TSA agents will call in sick or quit. A shortage of screeners would cause security lines to swell. Air traffic controllers, who are also working without pay, say they, too, are short-staffed. If the controller shortage became severe enough, the government could restrict the number of flights, though some analysts think that's unlikely.

"Luckily this is the low season — January is one of the weakest months of the year," said Savanthi Syth, an airline analyst for Raymond James. "This spilling into February is a real concern. The risk is that the longer this drags out, it might cause some passengers to say, 'I don't want to deal with all the hassle, maybe I won't take that trip.'"

Consumers are, in fact, taking a dimmer view of the economy, in part because of the shutdown. A measure of consumer confidence fell this month by the most in more than six years, according to the University of Michigan, which conducts the survey. If Americans were to cut back on travel and other discretionary spending, it would weaken consumer spending, the U.S. company's primary fuel. Laura Mandala, who runs a travel and tourism research firm, said the shutdown might discourage international travelers, too. "These uncertainties will result in fewer conferences being booked," Mandala said, leading to "convention and hotel staff layoffs, reduced schedules, resulting in less income for workers to spend in the local economy."

Hotels are starting to feel the impact, particularly in the Washington, D.C., region but also in other cities with substantial federal workforces, such as San Diego, which has a large naval base.

In the Washington area, including its nearby suburbs in Maryland and Virginia, hotel revenue plunged 26 percent in the second week of January compared with



Travelers organize their luggage before entering a security checkpoint at Miami International Airport, Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, in Miami. The three-day holiday weekend is likely to bring bigger airport crowds.

Associated Press

the same period last year, according to STR, a travel research firm. That's much steeper than the 8 percent decline that occurred nationwide.

Michael Bellisario, an analyst for investment bank R.W. Baird, suggested that other factors accounted for the most of the nationwide drop but said the shutdown almost certainly played a role. "In no way is the government shutdown a positive for hotel demand and travel," Bellisario said. If the shutdown lingers and people see more reports of long TSA lines on television news, "they will say, 'Oh wow, traveling is hard,' and that impacts the hotel industry," said Jan Freitag, a senior vice president at STR. For now, though, the most visible impact has been at airports. One of the seven checkpoints at Houston's main airport has been closed all week and will remain so indefinitely, a spokesman said. Miami closed one concourse during the afternoons and

evenings last weekend. On the other hand, officials at airports in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami said they weren't experiencing any problems.

The problems would emerge if the shutdown persists, and the damage would extend to the private companies that operate airport shops and restaurants.

Mike Boyd, an airport consultant in Colorado, noted that a pullback in travel would be felt most in airports that are heavily dependent on government employees such as Reagan National Airport outside Washington, Manhattan Regional Airport in Kansas, near the Army's Fort Riley, and Watertown International Airport in upstate New York, near Fort Drum.

Federal employees going without pay — there are about 800,000 of them, including 420,000 who are still working — are already suffering, of course. □

Congress to probe whether Trump told lawyer Cohen to lie

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are vowing to investigate whether President Donald Trump directed his personal attorney Michael Cohen to lie to Congress about a Moscow real estate project, calling that possibility a "concern of the greatest magnitude." Trump's current lawyer said the allegations sparking the inquiry are "categorically false."

Any evidence that Trump directed a witness to lie to investigators would place him in the greatest political and legal jeopardy yet and confront him with allegations of the sort that led to the departure of one president and the impeachment of another.

At issue is a report by BuzzFeed News that Trump told Cohen to lie about negotiations over the Moscow project that extended into the 2016 campaign. The Associated Press has not independently confirmed the report.

Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani said in a statement Friday that "any suggestion — from any source — that the President counseled Michael Cohen to lie is categorically false." White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders called the allegation "absolutely ridiculous."

The report comes as House Democrats have promised a thorough look into Trump's ties to Russia, and as special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and contacts with the Trump campaign.

Though his supporters have said Trump cannot be investigated for actions the Constitution permits him to take, even the president's nominee for attorney general, William Barr, said at his confirmation hearing this week that a president or anyone else who instructs a witness to lie or change his testimony commits illegal obstruction of justice.

BuzzFeed, citing two unidentified law enforcement officials, said Trump



Michael Cohen arrives at his home in New York with his left arm in a sling supported by a pillow Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

directed Cohen to lie to Congress and that Cohen regularly briefed Trump and his family on the Trump Tower project in Moscow — even as Trump said he had no business dealings with Russia. BuzzFeed said Cohen told Mueller that Trump personally instructed him to lie about the timing of the project in order to obscure Trump's involvement.

BuzzFeed said Mueller's investigators learned about Trump's directive "through interviews with multiple witnesses from the Trump Organization and internal company emails, text messages, and a cache of other documents." The report says Cohen then acknowledged Trump's instructions when he was interviewed by the Mueller team.

On Twitter, Trump charged that Cohen is "Lying to reduce his jail time!" even though Cohen has already been sentenced.

Giuliani noted that Cohen had pleaded guilty to lying and quoted federal prosecutors in New York who chastised him for a "pattern of lies and dishonesty over an extended period of time."

Mueller's team, however, has called him a credible witness.

"Today's claims are just more made-up lies born of Michael Cohen's malice and desperation," Giuliani said.

Though Republicans stayed mostly silent on the report, two Democratic committee chairmen in the House said they will open inquiries. The House Intelligence Committee chairman, Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said "we will do what's necessary to find out" if the report was true. He said the allegation that Trump directed Cohen to lie in his 2017 testimony to Congress "in an effort to curtail the investigation and cover up his business dealings with Russia is among the most serious to date."

Calling the allegations a "counterintelligence concern of the greatest magnitude," Schiff said his committee had already been working to secure witness testimony and documents related to the Moscow Trump Tower deal.

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, said directing a subordinate to lie to Congress would be a federal crime. He said his committee's job "is to get to the bottom of it, and we will do that work."

Cohen pleaded guilty in November to lying to Congress to cover up that he was negotiating the Trump Tower project in Moscow on Trump's behalf during the heat of his presidential campaign. The charge was brought by Mueller and was the result of Cohen's cooperation with that probe.

He was sentenced to three years in prison for crimes that included arranging the payment of hush money to conceal his boss' alleged sexual affairs, telling a judge that he agreed time and again to cover up Trump's "dirty deeds" out of "blind loyalty."

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley told Fox News Channel that taking the BuzzFeed story seriously was "absolutely ludicrous," but he repeatedly refused to deny the central allegation that Trump directed Cohen to lie.

An adviser to Cohen, Lanny Davis, declined to comment on the substance of the article, saying that he and Cohen wouldn't answer questions out of respect for Mueller.

Though some limits of executive power are untested, there is historical precedent for a president to face

consequences over similar allegations.

One of the articles of impeachment against Bill Clinton, for instance, accused him of coaching a witness to give false testimony. Richard Nixon faced similar allegations before ultimately leaving the White House.

Though Congress could use the allegation as a basis for impeachment proceedings, Justice Department legal opinions do not allow for criminal charges against a sitting president. Barr said this week that he saw no reason to change that policy.

Cohen is scheduled to testify before the House Oversight and Reform Committee Feb. 7, where he will probably be questioned about the report.

Though House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has discouraged any talk of impeachment in the early days of her new majority, some senior Democrats said that if the BuzzFeed report is confirmed, Trump's actions could rise to that level.

"If the @BuzzFeed story is true, President Trump must resign or be impeached," tweeted Texas Rep. Joaquin Castro, a member of the House intelligence panel.

California Rep. Ted Lieu, a member of the Judiciary committee, tweeted that it's time for that panel "to start holding hearings to establish a record of whether @POTUS committed high crimes."

Rhode Island Rep. David Cicilline, also a member of the Judiciary committee, tweeted that if Trump directed Cohen to lie, "that is obstruction of justice. Period. Full stop."

A Senate Democrat, Chris Murphy of Connecticut, tweeted that "we need to know this ASAP" if Mueller does have multiple sources confirming that Trump directed Cohen to lie to Congress.

"Mueller shouldn't end his inquiry, but it's about time for him to show Congress his cards before it's too late for us to act," Murphy tweeted. □



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White cop who shot black teen gets nearly seven years in prison

By **DON BABWIN** and **MICHAEL TARM**
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The white Chicago police officer who gunned down a black teenager in 2014 was sentenced Friday to nearly seven years in prison, bringing an end to a historic case that was centered on a shocking dashcam video and fueled national debates about race and policing and law enforcement's "code of silence." Jason Van Dyke was convicted last year of second-degree murder and 16 counts of aggravated battery — one for each bullet he fired at Laquan McDonald.

Moments before learning the sentence, Van Dyke acknowledged the teen's death, telling the judge that "as a God-fearing man and father, I will have to live with this the rest of my life." Judge Vincent Gaughan did not characterize Van Dyke's decision to open fire, saying only that it changed both McDonald's and Van Dyke's families forever.

"That's shame," he said. You can see the pain ... on both families ... This is not easy." He also said he knew the sentence would not please anyone.

"I assume 100 percent of people will be disappointed."

After the judge's announcement, Van Dyke's father said, "They threw him underneath the bridge."

His older daughter began crying and said "I want him home."

Earlier in the day, several black motorists testified that he used a racial slur and excessive force during traffic stops in the years before the 2014 shooting.

One of those witnesses, Vidale Joy, said Van Dyke used a racial slur after pulling him over in 2005 and at one point put a gun to Joy's head. He said Van Dyke "looked infuriated" and seemed "out of his mind." Under cross examination, Joy acknowledged that he did not allege Van Dyke used a slur in his first accounts of the stop.

Another witness, Ed Nance, struggled to maintain his composure as he looked across the room to identify Van Dyke. Testifying about a 2007 traffic stop, he said the officer cursed and slammed him on the car's hood, grabbed him by the arms and pulled him to the squad car.

Hours later, Van Dyke's relatives tried to defend and humanize him, saying he's a good father and husband who goes out of his way to help and who is not racist.

The issue of race has loomed over the case for more than four years, although it was rarely raised at trial. One of the only instances was during opening statements, when special prosecutor Joseph McMahon told jurors that Van Dyke saw "a black boy



Former Chicago police Officer Jason Van Dyke attends his sentencing hearing at the Leighton Criminal Court Building, Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, in Chicago, for the 2014 shooting of Laquan McDonald.

Associated Press

walking down the street" who had "the audacity to ignore the police."

Friday's testimony came a day after a different judge acquitted three officers accused of trying to conceal what happened to protect Van Dyke, who was the first Chicago officer found guilty in an on-duty shooting in a half century and probably the first ever in the shooting of an African-American.

At the sentencing, McDonald's uncle read a letter written from the slain teen's perspective, telling the court that Van Dyke killed him without provocation.

"I am a 17-year-old boy, and I am a victim of murder," Marvin Hunter said. "I am unable to speak in my own voice" because an officer "thought he would become judge, jury and executioner."

In asking for a long sentence, Hunter added: "Why

should this person who ended my life forever ... who has never asked for forgiveness ... be free when I am dead for forever?"

Van Dyke's wife said her life has been "a nightmare" since her husband was charged. She said she was denied a job and her daughter was not accepted into a dance group because of their last name.

If Van Dyke goes to prison, she said, her biggest fear is that "somebody will kill my husband for something he did as a police officer, something he was trained to do."

She looked up over her shoulder and addressed the judge directly: "His life is over. Please, please. He has paid the price already ... I beg for the least amount of time."

During her testimony, Van Dyke wiped his nose and eyes with a tissue while seated at the defense ta-

ble in a yellow jail jumpsuit. One of his daughters blamed the media for shaming police officers "for doing their jobs."

Kaylee Van Dyke, also 17, said the media "twists events, making people create negative thoughts." She said police officers don't care about people's color, "they care about your safety." She also said she regrets all the times she didn't hug her father.

Keith Thompson described his brother-in-law as a "gentle giant" and not a "monster." Thompson, who is black and whose wife is the sister of Van Dyke's wife, said he has never seen anything to indicate that Van Dyke is racist in the 13 years they've been acquainted. Van Dyke's sister, Heidi Kauffunger, told the court that her brother has been abandoned by family and friends since he was charged. □

Supreme Court inaction suggests DACA safe for another year

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama-era program that shields young immigrants from deportation and that President Donald Trump has sought to end seems likely to survive for at least another year.

That's because the Supreme Court took no action Friday on the Trump administration's request to decide by early summer whether Trump's bid to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program was legal. The program has been protected by several federal courts.

Based on the high court's usual practices, the earliest the justices would hear arguments in the case would be this fall, if they decide to hear the case at all. If arguments take place in October, a decision would not be likely before 2020, when it could affect the presidential campaign.

The administration "never asked for a stay of the rulings below which to us indicated it has known all along that there's no real rush to resolve these important issues," said Theodore Boutros Jr., a lawyer in Los Angeles who represents



In this Jan. 23, 2018, file photo, immigration advocates hold a rally on Capitol Hill in Washington. Associated Press

some young immigrants who challenged the administration's plans.

Trump and Congress could take the issue out of the court's hands altogether if they strike a deal on the program known as DACA, perhaps even in negotiations to end the partial government shutdown.

The immigration case is among several high-profile issues the court has apparently decided not to add

to its calendar for decision by late June. Other pending appeals involve Indiana abortion restrictions, whether the main federal employment discrimination law protects LGBT people and Trump's policy to limit military service by transgender people. The court also has yet to act on a separate administration request to let the transgender policy take effect, even before the case is decided.

On immigration, the administration sought to end DACA in 2017, but federal courts in California, New York and Washington, DC, have prevented it from doing so. A federal judge in Texas has declared the program is illegal, but refused to order it halted.

DACA has protected about 700,000 people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children or came with families that overstayed vi-

sas.

The Obama administration created the DACA program in 2012 to provide work permits and protection from deportation to people who, in many cases, have no memory of any home other than the United States.

The Trump administration has said it moved to end the program under the threat of a lawsuit from Texas and other states, raising the prospect of a chaotic end.

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions determined DACA to be unlawful because President Barack Obama did not have the authority to adopt it in the first place. Sessions cited a 2015 ruling by the federal appeals court in New Orleans that blocked a separate immigration policy implemented by Obama and the expansion of the DACA program.

Texas and other Republican-led states eventually did sue and won a partial victory in a federal court in Texas.

Civil rights groups, advocates for immigrants and Democratic-led states all have sued to prevent the end of the program. □



This Monday, Jan. 14, 2019 photo released by U.S. Customs and Border Protection shows some of 376 Central Americans the Border Patrol says it arrested in southwest Arizona, the vast majority of them families, who used short holes dug under a barrier to cross the border in multiple spots about 10 miles east of San Luis, Ariz.

SAN LUIS, Ariz. (AP) — A group of 376 Central Americans was arrested in southwest Arizona, the vast majority of them families who dug short, shallow holes under a barrier to cross the border, authorities said Friday.

The group dug under a steel barrier in seven spots about 10 miles (16 kilometers) east

of a border crossing in San Luis and made no effort to elude immigration agents. They included 176 children. The unusually large group was almost entirely from Guatemala. They were taken to Yuma after entering the country Monday.

The area became a major corridor for illegal crossings in the mid-2000s, prompting

Border Patrol arrests 376 who dug under barrier in Arizona

the Bush administration to weld steel plates to a barrier made of steel bollards that had been designed to stop people in vehicles, not on foot, Border Patrol spokesman Jose Garibay said. In those spots, there is no concrete footing to prevent digging.

The group used multiple holes in an apparent effort to get everyone across the border quickly, Garibay said.

Customs and Border Protection released photos and video of a long line of migrants standing patiently on a desert road's dirt shoulder after they were stopped.

On Jan. 9, the Border Patrol arrested a group of 247

people, mostly from Central America, who turned themselves in to agents in a highly remote part of New Mexico. The agency said many needed medical care.

Large numbers of Guatemalan families and unaccompanied children are surrendering to immigration agents in Antelope Wells, New Mexico, where 7-year-old Jakelin Caal and her father were found Dec. 6 with 161 others.

Caal started vomiting on the bus ride to the nearest Border Patrol station 94 miles (150 kilometers) away and had stopped breathing by the time she arrived. She died at a hospital in El Paso, Texas.

The southwest Arizona desert is less remote but arrests have also sharply increased after years of relative quiet. The Border Patrol's Yuma sector made 7,857 arrests in October and November, more than double the same period a year earlier. Despite a surge in asylum-seeking families from Central America in recent months, border arrests remain low by historical standards.

The Border Patrol made 396,579 arrests on the Mexican border in the 2018 fiscal year, up 30 percent from a 46-year low during the same period a year earlier but still well below a high of more than 1.6 million in 2000. □

Police: Arizona officer kills teen boy with replica gun

By ANITA SNOW

PHOENIX (AP) — Police in a Phoenix suburb say a burglary suspect shot to death by an officer was a 14-year-old boy carrying a replica gun.

Authorities say officers in the city of Tempe reported a suspect burglarizing a car Tuesday and that he ran away holding what appeared to be a handgun. During the chase, police say he turned toward the officers. One officer perceived that as a threat and shot the suspect, who died at a hospital.

Police said Wednesday that the teen had a replica 1911 airsoft gun in his possession, which they determined he had taken from vehicle along with some other items.

They say the shooting was captured on the officer's body camera. The police department did not immediately respond to a request by The Associated Press for access to the video.

The name of the teen and the officer who opened fire haven't been released.

But the ABC15 Arizona station interviewed a man and a woman identified as the boy's brother and mother, who said they wanted police to explain what happened.

The boy's brother Jason Gonzalez said, "A police officer has a Taser gun right? Why not shoot a Taser at him? He sees a young boy, my brother wouldn't shoot. I know he wouldn't shoot." Speaking through a Spanish-English interpreter, the teen's mother Sandra Gonzalez said: "If they want to tarnish my son, they are wrong."

"Apart from the fact that they killed him, they want to destroy him," she said. "No. I won't allow it, I want justice."

A Facebook page believed to be the teen's shows photographs of a baby-faced boy with a peach-fuzz mustache, a few snaps with relatives and friends and a big, green truck. Friends of the family were putting together a GoFundMe page to pay for the teen's funeral costs.

The department said it will

conduct its investigation in conjunction with the Maricopa County Attorney's office, as is customary in officer-involved shootings. A self-described socialist group rallied in Tempe to draw attention to the case. "We want to bring an end to the police brutality in Maricopa County and lock up killer cops," said activist Alexia Isais. "We are demanding that police be held accountable for the killings they are committing, mostly against unarmed, marginalized people." A vigil was held Thursday outside the Tempe Police headquarters.

Since the beginning of the year, there has been at least one other police shooting that killed a teen in Maricopa County, Arizona's largest.

Earlier this month, a Phoenix police officer shot and killed a 19-year-old Jacob Michael Harris after surveillance officers reportedly saw him and three others carry out an armed robbery. Police say they were watching the group because they were suspects



Sandra Gonzalez, mother of a slain 14-year-old boy shot by Tempe Police, joins another family members and others in front of Tempe Police headquarters to hold a protest and vigil for the boy shot to death by Tempe Police on Tuesday, as police say they were pursuing a burglary suspect who they thought had a handgun, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, in Tempe, Ariz. It turns out, according to police, the teen had a replica gun.

in several other robberies. Also this month, an officer in the Phoenix suburb of Peoria shot and wounded a 17-year-old boy after get-

ting a call about a robbery at an auto supply store. Officers said the boy had a gun. He was shot in the shoulder. □

Michigan sheriff: Warrant needed if ICE wants jail inmates

By ED WHITE

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A jail in western Michigan's largest county won't release people to federal immigration agents unless they present an arrest warrant from a judge, a sheriff announced Friday after learning that a mentally ill war veteran born in the U.S. was picked up by the government and held for three days in December.

Kent County Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young said she agrees with people who have "expressed extreme concern and even outrage" over the government's treatment of Jilmar Ramos-Gomez, who served in Afghanistan with the Marines and returned with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Ramos-Gomez, 27, was in

the county jail on charges related to a November incident at a Grand Rapids hospital.

He was supposed to be released on Dec. 14, but jail staff honored a request from Immigration and Customs Enforcement to turn him over.

He spent three days in a detention center before a family lawyer proved that Ramos-Gomez is a U.S. citizen born in Michigan.

"I notified ICE officials that the Kent County sheriff will hold detainees for ICE only after ICE presents to our office an arrest warrant issued by a federal judge or magistrate," LaJoye-Young said.

ICE said it detained Ramos-Gomez because he told agents on Nov. 23 that he was in the U.S. illegally. The statement released

Wednesday didn't indicate why agents didn't try to verify that claim before picking him up at the jail three weeks later.

"We applaud the Kent County sheriff. ... Jilmar's case shows that blindly turning people over to ICE based on ICE's error-ridden detainer system is a recipe for disaster," said Miriam Aukerman, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan. Separately on Friday, the Grand Rapids police department said it notified ICE about the hospital incident. Ramos-Gomez was accused of setting a fire, pulling a fire alarm and getting access to a helipad.

Interim police Chief David Kiddle said his department "believed it was a possible act of terrorism." □



This undated booking photo released by the Kent County Sheriff's Office, shows Jilmar Ramos-Gomez, a war veteran who was picked up at the Kent County jail and detained for three days in December by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young says her jail won't release people to federal immigration agents unless they present an arrest warrant from a judge.

Associated Press

May's foes gather as Britain's Brexit stalemate drags on

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Theresa May held talks Friday with European leaders and British Cabinet colleagues, but efforts to end Britain's Brexit stalemate appeared deadlocked, with neither May nor Britain's opposition leader shifting from their entrenched positions.

May has been meeting with politicians from several U.K. parties this week to try to find a way forward after her European Union divorce deal was overwhelmingly rejected by Parliament.

Despite that, May has been unwilling to move her "red lines" in the Brexit negotiations, which include taking Britain out of the bloc's customs union. And opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn has refused to meet with May unless she rules out the possibility of Britain leaving the EU with no deal — a scenario that many believe would hurt the British economy.

May on Friday also spoke to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, and planned more calls to



British lawmaker Boris Johnson speaks at the headquarters of construction equipment company JCB in Rocester, England, Friday Jan. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

European colleagues over the weekend.

But the talks yielded little progress.

The European Commission said tersely that the May-Juncker call was "an exchange of information on both sides" and that the two had "agreed to stay in touch."

May, who narrowly defeated a no-confidence vote in her Conservative govern-

ment triggered by Corbyn this week, said it was "not within the government's power to rule out no-deal" because by law Britain will leave the EU without an agreement on March 29 unless Parliament approves a deal before then.

May is due to publish her revived Brexit blueprint on Monday, before British lawmakers debate it — and doubtless try to alter it — on

Jan. 29.

The prime minister is in a bind. Many lawmakers think a "soft Brexit" that keeps Britain in the EU's single market or customs union is the only plan capable of winning a majority in Parliament. But a large chunk of May's Conservative Party is vehemently opposed to that idea.

Britain's political chaos has spurred EU nations to step

up preparations for a disorderly British exit. France and other countries are spending millions, hiring thousands of workers and issuing emergency decrees to cope with the possibility that Britain will crash out of the bloc, sparking major disruptions to travel and trade.

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe on Friday inspected some of the country's preparations for a no-deal Brexit, visiting the Euro-tunnel complex and meeting with small businesses on the English Channel coast. France is paying special attention to the Channel tunnel, which carries millions of passengers annually between Britain and France, as well as freight trucks that play a significant role in Britain's trade with the continent.

On Friday, a group of high-profile Germans made an emotional appeal to Britain to stay in the bloc. A letter published in the Times of London said "without your great nation, this Continent would not be what it is today: a community defined by freedom and prosperity." □

Australian police arrest man over Israeli student's death

By **ROD McGUIRK**

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Australian police arrested a man Friday for questioning over the death of an Israeli student in Melbourne, while the victim's tearful father visited the flower-strewn crime scene where her body was found. Aiaa Maasarwe was slain at 12:10 a.m. on Wednesday shortly after she got off a tram in the Melbourne suburb of Bundoora.

A 20-year-old was taken into custody on Friday morning in the neighboring suburb of Greensborough, a police statement said. Police did not say if any charges have been filed.

The 21-year-old victim was studying at La Trobe University in Melbourne as an exchange student from Shanghai University in Chi-



Two women stand at a floral tribute, Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, at the scene where the body of Israeli student Aiaa Maasarwe was found earlier in the week in Melbourne, Australia.

Associated Press

na.

Her father Saeed Maasarwe arrived in Melbourne on Thursday to bring her body home. He cried Friday when he saw an impromptu floral memorial arranged by members of the public

at the site where her body was found behind a hedge not far from the tram stop. "This is the last place my daughter — was here," the father told reporters. "I had many dreams to be with her."

The father was also among hundreds of people who attended a vigil later on the steps of the Victoria state parliament in honor of the victim and in a protest against male violence.

Saeed thanked the crowd for coming and said if someone else had died, his daughter would "be the first" to come to the vigil.

"This is Aiaa," he said before breaking down in tears.

Police have not detailed the attack on Maasarwe, which they assume was random and opportunistic. Prime Minister Scott Morrison revealed that she had been raped.

"I just want to begin by saying how devastated I am by the despicable, tragic and violent killing and rape of Aiaa Maasarwe," Morrison told reporters in Fiji.

"Every woman in Australia

— every person in Australia — should be able to travel home in safety. I can't begin to think of what I could say to her family," he added.

Her uncle, Abed Kittani, told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. that Maasarwe was speaking by phone to a younger sister when she was attacked.

"She heard the cars passing by and she was helpless, she couldn't do anything," Kittani said of the sister. The sister sent messages, but there was no response.

"Instead of coming home with a diploma, she is coming back in a coffin," Kittani said.

Another uncle, Rame Maasarwe, said: "We cannot believe that something like this happened in Australia; we think it's very safe there." □



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Palestinian forces soldier on amid Israeli raids, US neglect

By MOHAMMED DARAGH-MEH

JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— On a cold winter's night earlier this month, a convoy of 10 Israeli armored jeeps drove into the heart of the West Bank city of Ramallah and parked in front of the Palestinian police headquarters.

Soldiers fanned out, searching nearby shops for security cameras after a pair of recent shooting attacks against Israelis in the occupied territory. The raid attracted dozens of stone-throwing Palestinians, and the Israelis responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. It was the latest in a series of Israeli raids into urban areas that the Palestinians say undermine their own U.S.-trained security forces. Those forces have been coordinating operations with Israel in the West Bank for years but ties have frayed as the peace process ground to a halt.

"This humiliates the Palestinian Authority," said Zakariya Musleh, head of Palestinian military intelligence. "It's a clear message from the occupying power that we are not a partner for peace." The Palestinian Authority has faced mounting protests over the security coordination as the Trump administration pursues policies seen by critics as obliterating whatever chance remains for a two-state solution, from recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital to cutting off economic aid to the Palestinians.

And yet the security coordination with Israel has endured for more than a decade, through one crisis after another, including three wars in Gaza and clashes at Jerusalem's holiest site. This is in part because the



In this Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 file photo, Israeli forces deploy during a raid in the West Bank City of Ramallah.

Associated Press

Palestinian Authority and Israel have a shared enemy in the Hamas militant group, which drove Palestinian security forces from Gaza in a week of street clashes in 2007, less than two years after Israel withdrew from the territory.

The Israeli military declined to comment on the recent raids or the security cooperation.

Alon Eviatar, a retired Israeli colonel who served in the Palestinian territories for nearly three decades, said Israel is aware of the political pressure the Palestinian Authority faces. He said Israeli forces only launch their own West Bank raids in "sensitive cases" when they need to quickly apprehend an assailant or act on highly classified intelligence.

"The Israeli side was afraid (of) a real escalation in the West Bank, especially in Ramallah," he said, referring to last month's shootings, in which gunmen killed two Israeli soldiers at a West Bank bus stop and wounded seven Israelis outside a settlement, including a pregnant

woman whose baby later died. Israeli forces killed one of the suspected gunmen in December and arrested the other earlier this month. Both were found north of Ramallah.

Palestinian security forces will face another setback at the end of January, when the U.S. is required to cut off its financial assistance because of a law known as the Anti-Terrorism Cooperation Act that was passed with bipartisan support last year.

Under the law, the Palestinian Authority would be disqualified from receiving any U.S. aid unless it agrees to pay court judgments of up to hundreds of millions of dollars on behalf of American victims of Palestinian attacks. The deadline for accepting that condition is Jan. 31. The administration and some pro-Israel members of Congress have been looking for ways to preserve the aid, but it's unlikely a fix will be found until after the shutdown ends.

The court settlements far exceed the aid itself, which

totalled \$61 million last year. The U.S. has provided more than \$850 million to support the Palestinian security forces since 2007, when it ramped up assistance after Hamas seized Gaza.

Nabil Shaath, an adviser to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said the looming cuts should be of more concern to the United States and Israel than to the Palestinians.

"They want that security support," he said. "The most unpopular thing we are doing now here is security coordination with the Israelis. Believe me, that's not the way to put pressure on us." The U.S. aid is mainly spent on training and equipment, and salaries will not be affected. Israel is believed to support the U.S. assistance, but the prime minister's office declined to comment on the looming cuts.

As unpopular as the security coordination is, no one expects it to end anytime soon. The Palestine Liberation Organization's mini-parliament called for ending security coordination

with Israel last year, the latest in a long line of heated statements and empty threats.

Abbas has always been staunchly opposed to violence. Cutting ties with Israel would presumably lead to the collapse of the Palestinian Authority. Israeli forces are deployed across the occupied West Bank, at military bases and checkpoints between and around nearly every Palestinian town and city.

The funding and training of Palestinian security forces was historically seen as part of the process of building an independent state. But there have been no meaningful peace talks in a decade, and the Palestinians cut all contacts with the Trump administration when it recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, effectively siding with Israel on one of the most divisive issues in the decades-old conflict.

These days, Abbas relies on the security forces to preserve his increasingly unpopular rule. The security forces have helped keep a tight lid on Hamas in the West Bank, where they have been accused of human rights abuses. They have also used force to break up protests against Abbas' policies.

Alaa Lahlouh, a former Palestinian officer who now researches security issues at the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, says the security coordination is deeply unpopular, but that authorities maintain it for political and personal reasons.

"The Palestinian Authority believes the security cooperation with Israel and the United States will enhance its role as a political partner," he said, adding that they also cooperate for personal reasons. □

Cyprus: US to lift Cyprus arms embargo in security boost

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS
NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) —

The U.S. will soon start lifting a decades-old arms embargo on Cyprus because Washington acknowledges the Mediterranean island nation's contribution to bolstering regional stability and security, the Cypriot foreign minister said Friday. Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides said that Washington sees the "added value" of allowing Cyprus to acquire military equipment that would help enhance its capabilities to boost regional security.

The embargo was imposed in 1987 with the aim of preventing an arms buildup that would hamper diplomatic efforts to reunify divided Cyprus. The island was split along ethnic lines in 1974 when Turkey invaded in the wake of a coup aimed at union with Greece.

Christodoulides said the process to lift the embargo has been set in motion in the U.S. Congress, reflecting a "positive shift" in that Washington no longer views Cyprus solely as an unsettled conflict of ethnic



In this Thursday, March 1, 2018 file photo, Nikos Christodoulides speaks after taking the oath of office as Cyprus' new foreign minister during a ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Associated Press

division.

"This is proof, if you like, of the recognition by the U.S. administration of the positive role that Cyprus plays as a pillar of stability and security in the broader region," Christodoulides told The Associated Press.

Heightened U.S. interest in the gas-rich east Medi-

terranean has apparently irked Russia.

The Russian foreign ministry last month warned against what it called "anti-Russian plans" of a U.S. military buildup in Cyprus in order to counter Russia's growing influence in the region.

Christodoulides said that doesn't reflect reality on

the ground. He has conveyed to his Russian counterpart that stronger ties with Washington shouldn't be interpreted as "prejudicial" to Cyprus' relations with any other country. He said Cyprus' foreign policy doesn't engage in a "zero-sum game."

Cyprus regularly offers its

facilities to countries — including the U.S. — that have asked to carry out humanitarian missions, he said.

He said the U.S. and some European Union countries are keen to join energy-based partnerships that Cyprus and Greece have established with neighboring countries — including Egypt, Jordan and Israel — that are expanding to include Lebanon and the Palestinians.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that there are 122 trillion cubic feet of gas in the east Mediterranean, with just over a quarter of that amount discovered in waters of Egypt, Israel and Cyprus. Offshore exploratory drilling continues along with talks on how to deliver that gas to European markets and beyond, either through onshore gas processing facilities or via pipelines.

"I am personally convinced that hydrocarbons in the Eastern Mediterranean can become what the coal and steel was for the European Community," Christodoulides said. □

Russia warns US missile defense plans will fuel arms race

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia said Friday the Pentagon's new missile defense strategy will trigger an arms race in space and further undermine global stability.

The tough Russian statement came in response to the U.S. administration's Missile Defense Review released Thursday during President Donald Trump's visit to the Pentagon.

The Pentagon's new strategy calls for a new array of space-based sensors and other high-tech systems to more quickly detect and shoot down incoming missiles. It makes clear that the new defense technologies are needed to counter advanced weapons being developed by Russia and China along with threats from North Korea and Iran. The Russian Foreign Ministry described the new



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov speaks during his and Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas joint news conference following their talks in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

U.S. strategy as a proof of "Washington's desire to ensure uncontested military domination in the world." It warned that the expansion of the U.S. missile defense system "will inevitably start an arms race in space with the most negative consequences for international security and stability." "Contrary to what the Review's authors say, the im-

plementation of its plans and approaches will not strengthen security of the U.S. and its allies," the ministry said in a statement. "Attempts to take that path will have the opposite effect and deal another heavy blow to international stability."

Trump, in a speech at the Pentagon, declared that space is the new war-fight-

ing domain and vowed that the U.S. will develop an unrivaled missile defense system to protect against advanced hypersonic and other threats.

The Russian Foreign Ministry described the Pentagon's review as an attempt to reproduce President Ronald Reagan's 'Star Wars' missile defense plans on a new technological level and urged the Trump administration to "come to its senses" and engage in arms control talks with Russia.

Earlier Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov again rejected the U.S. claim of Russian violations of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, charging that Washington hasn't offered any proof.

The U.S. has accused Russia of testing and deploying a missile that violated provisions of the INF Treaty that

bans production, testing and deployment of land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,400 miles). Washington said it will suspend its treaty obligations if Russian does not come into compliance by Feb. 2.

Lavrov insisted the Russian missile has only been launched at the range allowed by the treaty.

"If they think the range was excessive, they must have satellite images or something else, but they haven't shown anything to us," he said after the talks with visiting German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas.

Maas called on Russia to destroy the type of missile that the U.S. alleges is in violation of the treaty, saying he doesn't think "anyone in Europe would like to see the beginning of a new arms race." □

Zimbabwe in 'total internet shutdown' amid violent crackdown

By FARAI MUTSAKA

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) —

Zimbabwe on Friday faced a "total internet shutdown," a media group said, after a days-long violent crackdown on people protesting a dramatic fuel price increase. Badly injured people streamed into a hospital in the capital after alleged assaults by security forces.

"Our country is going through one of the most trying periods in its history," the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference said in a sweeping statement lamenting the government's "intolerant handling of dissent" and its failure to halt economic collapse.

Media group MISA-Zimbabwe shared a text message from the country's largest telecom company, Econet, calling the government's internet order "beyond our reasonable control." The High Court will hear a challenge to the shutdown on Monday, the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights said.

A prominent pastor and activist who faces a pos-



In this Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 photo, an injured man is helped at a private hospital after an alleged assault by a group of uniformed soldiers in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Associated Press

sible 20 years in prison on a subversion charge arrived at court, one of more than 600 people arrested this week. Evan Mawarire has called it "heartbreaking" to see the new government of President Emmerson Mnangagwa acting like that of former leader Robert Mugabe.

Mawarire is accused of inciting civil disobedience

online. "It's a shame what's happening," the pastor said. A magistrate said there was reasonable suspicion he had committed an offense and set a Jan. 31 hearing, while Mawarire remains in detention until his lawyer on Monday can seek bail.

International calls for restraint by Zimbabwe's security forces are growing,

while Mnangagwa prepares to plead for more investment at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. He announced the fuel price increase on the eve of his overseas trip, leaving hardline former military commander and Vice President Constantino Chiwenga as acting president. Gasoline in the economically shattered country is

now the world's most expensive. Zimbabweans heeded a nationwide stay-at-home call earlier this week in protest. Rights groups and others have accused security forces of targeting activists and labor leaders in response, with the United States expressing alarm.

The U.N. human rights office on Friday urged Zimbabwe to stop the crackdown, noting reports of intimidating door-to-door searches by security forces.

The Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights has said it had treated 68 cases of gunshot wounds and 100-plus other cases of "assaults with sharp objects, booted feet, baton sticks" and more.

Injured people streamed into a private hospital in the capital, Harare, on Thursday. Some had broken legs. A nurse attended to a man with a broken spine.

Albert Taurai told The Associated Press he had ventured out to look for bread when plainclothes officers wearing masks beat him up, accusing him of barricading roads. □

Myanmar army ordered to take offensive against Arakan Army

Associated Press

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) —

Myanmar's military announced Friday that the Arakan Army, a Buddhist rebel group in Rakhine state, has been classified a terrorist organization after mounting a flurry of recent attacks.

The state earlier was the site of a brutal counterinsurgency campaign by the military against the Muslim Rohingya minority, causing more than 700,000 to flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

Military officers said at a news conference in the capital, Naypyitaw, that leader Aung San Suu Kyi ordered security forces to launch the offensive against the Arakan Army.

The insurgent group, which seeks autonomy from the central government, killed 13 police officers and wounded nine in attacks

on Jan. 4. The moves to counter the rebels were decided at a Jan. 7 meeting at Myanmar's presidential offices, the officers said. Suu Kyi "said the Arakan Army is just a terrorist group and instructed us to defeat them effectively, quickly and clearly," Maj. Gen. Nyi Nyi Tun, vice chairman of the Myanmar Military Information Committee, told reporters. A terrorist designation criminalizes a group and bans all communication with them.

He said Suu Kyi suggested that if she did not order the military to attack the Arakan Army, the international community would accuse her of religious prejudice for attacking the Muslim guerrillas of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army but not Buddhist rebels who committed similar actions with similar goals.

The military in Buddhist-ma-



Maj. Gen. Soe Naing Oo, chairman of the Myanmar's military information committee, talks to journalists during a press conference at the Military Museum in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

jority Myanmar has been accused of ethnic cleansing, and even genocide, against the Muslim Rohingya. Its counterinsurgency campaign was triggered when a group of Rohingya guerrillas attacked security outposts in August 2017.

The officers said the military clashed with the Arakan Army 15 times in 2015, 26 times in 2016, 56 times in 2017 and 61 times in 2018, while the rebels also planted some mines. They said there have been at least eight armed encounters

this year. The guerrillas are known to have trained in areas controlled by other ethnic rebel forces, especially in Kachin state.

The Arakan Army, founded in 2009, is estimated to have several thousand well-armed and organized uniformed members, in contrast to the ragtag and virtually dormant Rohingya guerrillas.

Myanmar's military in December announced cease-fires in five areas where ethnic rebellions are active, but did not include Rakhine state because it had information that the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army planned attacks, the officers said.

Brig. Gen. Zaw Min Tun said he believed that the fighting with the Arakan Army would not interfere with plans to repatriate Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh. □

Mothers of April: Relatives of the slain unite in Nicaragua

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
MEXICO CITY (AP) —

The two mothers walked shoulder-to-shoulder ahead of a casket in the northern Nicaraguan city of Esteli, wailing in shared grief at the killings of their sons during a wave of anti-government protests.

Francisca Machado was accompanying the casket holding her 24-year-old son Franco Valdivia Machado's body to the cemetery on that April day. Socorro Corrales had just buried her own son, 23-year-old Orlando Perez Corrales, the day before.

From that image of solidarity was born a movement that became the Mothers of April, formed by relatives of many of the 325 people killed in the government suppression of the student-led protests. Its members are demanding justice from President Daniel Ortega, who has tightened his grip on power and targeted voices of dissent, arresting hundreds and closing media outlets and human rights groups in the aftermath of the protests.

The group is preparing for a long struggle for accountability for the killers of their children from a government that has labeled the protesters criminals and coup-plotters. Three of its nine leaders have fled Nicaragua, fearing for their own safety.

"We don't want to think about many years passing, but part of our responsibility is to prepare for that scenario," said Francys Valdivia Machado, whose younger brother was buried on April 22.

Nicaragua's mothers are drawing on the experiences of the best-known such group, Argentina's Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, and the more recently organized Mothers of Ayotzinapa in Mexico. About 150 families are involved in the Nicaraguan movement.

Valdivia and Perez were both university students, the former a third-year law student with a 5-year-old daughter, the latter about to complete his engineering degree. Valdivia com-



In this May 3, 2018 file photo, a floral arrangement with the words in Spanish "Your wife and children love you" stands during the funeral for Nelson Tellez, who died of gunshot wounds during the April 20 protests against the government of President Daniel Ortega, in Ciudad Sandino, Nicaragua.

Associated Press

posed socially conscious rap music under the name "Renfan" and loved baseball; Perez was active in his church's outreach, especially with the elderly.

They did not know each other but were standing near one another on the evening of April 20 during a protest against social security cuts in an Esteli park. Perez fell first. Valdivia started to move toward him when he was shot in the head.

Their families believe they were both shot by a sniper firing from City Hall. Fifteen minutes before Valdivia was shot, he had denounced authorities' use of force against peaceful protesters on a Facebook video holding what appeared to be a rubber bullet in his hand.

The nationwide protests began April 18, initially drawing mostly senior citizens who were the most directly impacted by the announced social security cuts. When the elderly protesters were met with violence from pro-government Sandinista Youth thugs, students turned out in large numbers to defend them.

Ortega and his wife, Vice President Rosario Murillo, maintained the use of force was justified to fend off an attempted coup. Domestic and international human

rights groups strongly disagreed.

A group of independent international experts sent by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to investigate violations wrote in its December report that the killings were carried out by police and pro-government gangs unleashed against the protesters. The experts were expelled from the country before they could publicly release their report.

On a recent afternoon, Francys Valdivia Machado joined a videoconference with other Mothers of April executive committee members.

The group's president, she was taking part from a spare bedroom in a rented house in the Mexican countryside, where she fled after receiving threats from Ortega's government. In June, two men dressed in T-shirts like those worn by the pro-Ortega goons who violently targeted the student protesters came to her home and law office looking for her. She and her family moved around Managua for weeks before eventually heading to Mexico.

Her laptop open on a small table and Nicaragua's flag draped over the back of her chair, the 28-year-old lawyer discussed creating a virtual museum to document the repression and

opening a savings account for the group. The latter move is complicated by the uncertainty over who among the group's leaders would still be in Nicaragua. The group is also working toward a cooperation agreement with the Mothers of Ayotzinapa, relatives of the 43 students who disappeared in September 2014 in southern Mexico, and establishing a formal relationship with the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo.

"They have a great record of fighting to find out all of the different human rights violations, the documentation, the investigation, their unwavering demand for the truth, to demand justice and we know those are processes that don't happen overnight," Valdivia said of the Argentine group, which formed during that country's military dictatorship in the 1970s to search for missing relatives. In May, a branch of the Argentine group sent a letter to their Nicaraguan sisters expressing their solidarity and offering their assistance.

Marjorie Agosin, a Wellesley College professor who wrote a book about the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, said the Nicaraguan group can learn from the resilience of their Argentine counterparts.

The Argentine mothers ef-

fectively used symbols — marching in white kerchiefs that suggested children's diapers — and leveraged alliances with all layers of society as well as international human rights groups, she said.

"In Latin America they stigmatize the poor, the missing, the students," Agosin said. "If you establish an alliance of people from the middle class, the upper class ... you see that it happens in every aspect of society."

It makes it difficult for the government to just dismiss them as terrorists, she added.

The day Socorro Corrales decided to walk with Francisca Machado to the cemetery she was angry.

"It made me furious, it hurt," said Corrales, who is now in the United States seeking asylum.

Walking with Machado "was a way to fight, a way to scream to the four winds about everything they were doing to our people, to our boys, to our children."

Over the succeeding months, more and more women came forward to support each other in demanding justice in the killings of their relatives. The mothers, sisters and aunts of the victims gathered every week at a traffic circle in Managua to maintain their visibility until such demonstrations were prohibited.

Francys Valdivia said she began hearing from more and more mothers who sought her legal counsel. They eventually formed the foundation of the movement.

With public anti-government protests effectively banned in Nicaragua following last year's unrest — the biggest challenge to Ortega's power since he was re-elected more than a decade ago — members of the association held demonstrations in Costa Rica and Spain this month. "Our relatives started the fight," Valdivia said of her slain younger brother. "As family we're obligated to continue the fight independent of the pain that each one of us carries." □

LOCAL



Caribbean Cinemas celebrates its 50th Anniversary

SAN JUAN, PR – On June 2019, Caribbean Cinemas turns 50 years since its foundation in Puerto Rico and they will celebrate all year along with prizes and diverse activities for employees and their loyal cinema lovers clientele.

Company's first cinema was the Regency Theatre located in San Juan, Puerto Rico, current home office for Puerto Rico and most of the territories in the Caribbean, there are also local offices in Dominican Republic and Bolivia. The Company was founded by the late Mr. Victor Carrady in 1969 and it still operates as a family owned business, now under the Direction of his son, Robert Carrady.

Throughout the years, the chain began their growing route, not only in Puerto Rico, but also to Dominican Republic, and other Caribbean territories such as St. Thomas, St. Croix, Trinidad, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Antigua, Aruba and most recently Guadeloupe and countries in Center and South America such as Guyana, Panama and Bolivia. In total there are 68 cinemas in 14 countries.

Besides the geographic expansion, Caribbean Cinemas has focused in innovation and offering the latest in technology in the cinema industry. Along the years, the Company has implemented changes such as: stadium seating auditoriums, themed cinemas, digital and laser projection, Dolby Atmos surround



system and the newest Premium format auditoriums such as CXC, IMAX, 4DX and VIP. They have also developed the Fine Arts concept with Deli Café and other offerings that contribute to the movie-going experience as Cinema Birthdays, Gift Certificates and Alternative Content like the opera, ballet, concert and sport events.

"To me, this 50 years celebration would not be possible without two main components: First, our loyal and committed employees

which have been an important key element in our development and growth, along with my family members. It makes me very proud to see the internal professional growth of many of our employees through these 50 years and at the same time being the employer of 1,600 persons in Puerto Rico and a total of 3,500 persons in the territories where we currently have presence. The other big component of this celebration is our loyal and demanding clientele that has made Caribbean Cinemas their main

entertainment destination for the past 50 years. Without your patronage and support we would have not been here today.", said Robert Carrady, Caribbean Cinemas' President.

The company also recognizes the importance of the role of film distribution companies throughout the 50 years of history and the support of business partners whose brands have been tied to the company for many years and have seen the cinema as a medium to sell their products and present their ads or advertising campaigns.

This year the company will held a series of events like raffles and promotions for clients and employees to commemorate 50 years of history. Also, they will coordinate events targeted to persons with special needs, charities and low-income communities, as part of their social commitment. All these events will be announced in social media and Caribbean Cinemas' webpage.

On Saturday, January 19 Caribbean Cinemas will celebrate the International Popcorn Day. When purchasing an 85 ounces individual popcorn or combo, it will be up-sized for a 130 ounces, at no cost. In February, a Valentine's Day promotion will take place and there will be a search for Caribbean Cinemas' oldest ticket among clients. Details of these promotions will be announced later. □



Aruba's Currency



ORANJESTAD — The florin (sign: Afl.; code: AWG) is the currency of Aruba. It is subdivided into 100 cents. The florin was introduced in 1986, replacing the Netherlands Antillean guilder. Although the Aruban florin is pegged to the United States dollar at the rate of 1.79 florin per USD, the commonly used street value is at 1.75 florin per USD.

As part of the Netherlands Antilles, the Dutch guilder circulated in Aruba during much of the 1700s. It was subdivided into 20 stuiver. In 1794 the Curacao reaal was minted for the use across the Netherlands Antilles and the guilder was officially discontinued in the area (but continued in the Netherlands until 2002).

From 1799 to 1828 the Curacao reaal circulated at an exchange rate of 6 stuiver to 1 reaal and 3 reaal to 1 guilder. After a short hiatus the guilder was reintroduced in 1828, however it was now subdivided into 100 cents rather than 20 stuiver.

When WWII broke out the Netherlands were quickly overpowered by Nazi Germany and the Curacao guilder's peg to the Dutch guilder was broken. A new peg, this time to the USD, was introduced that same year at a rate of 1 USD = 1.88585 guilders.

In 1952 the Curacao guilder was officially renamed the Netherlands Antillean guilder to better represent the currency's use across the region. In 1971 the Antillean guilders peg to the US dollar was adjusted to a rate of 1 USD = 1.79 guilders.

Fifteen years later Aruba separated from the Netherlands Antilles



and introduced its own currency: the Aruban florin. It was introduced at par with the guilder. The guilder remains in use in Curacao and Sint Maarten.

Coins

In 1986, coins were introduced in denominations of 5, 10, 25 and 50 cents, 1 and 2 1/2 florin. Later, the 5 florin banknote was replaced by a square coin and the 2 1/2 florin coin was removed from circulation. The 5 florin was later in 2005 replaced with a round golden coin, because the old square 5 florin coin was too easy to counterfeit. All coins are struck in nickel-bonded steel with exception of the 5 florin, which is an alloy of copper and other metals. The 50 cent is the only square-shaped coin remaining, also commonly referred to as a "yotin" by the locals.

On the back of each 1 and 5 florin coins is the profile view of the current head of state of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. From 1986 to 2013 it was queen Beatrix and from 2014 onwards it is king Willem-Alexander. Moreover, only these coins have a writing on their edge, 'God Zij Met Ons' meaning 'God Be With Us'. The coins are designed by Mr. Fingal and minted by the "Nederlandse Munt N.V.".

Banknotes

The Central Bank of Aruba introduced banknotes in denominations of 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 florin and dated January 1, 1986. In 1990, the bank issued the same denominations in a colorful new family of notes and designed by Aruban artist Evelino Fingal and printed at "Joh. Enschedé en Zonen" in the Netherlands. As director of the Archaeological Museum, Fingal found inspiration in old Indian paintings and pot shards. Fingal

combined decorative motives found on pre-Columbian pottery with pictures of animals unique to the island. The 500-florin notes were introduced in 1993, with the 5-florin note replaced by a square coin in 1995.

As of 2003 a new print was started of the then already existing banknotes of 10, 25, 50, 100 and 500 florin. These new banknotes were made with new safety features to counteract counterfeiting, but retained their look. The copyright on Aruban banknotes is owned by the Centrale Bank van Aruba.

The tactile mark

	10 Florin
	25 Florin
	50 Florin
	100 Florin
	500 Florin

A raised identification code for the visually handicapped is incorporated on the front of each banknote, bottom left in the white area.

For questions regarding these banknotes and coins, you can contact the Cash and Vault Department at telephone no. (297) 525-2141 or (297) 525-2139 or e-mail: Cash-VaultDept@cbaruba.org. □

Experience the Total Lunar Eclipse right here in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — We are in for a treat this weekend! A Total Lunar Eclipse (Super Blood Wolf Moon) is happening between the late night hours of Sunday January 20 2019 and the early hours of Monday morning January 21 2019.

The eclipse will happen in the following stages;

Sunday 10:36 PM local time (UTC 02:36) - The Penumbra eclipse (when the first part of the Earth's shadow starts touching the Moon's face) starts.

Sunday 11:33 PM local time (UTC 03:33) - The partial eclipse begins, at this point the Moon will start turning red.

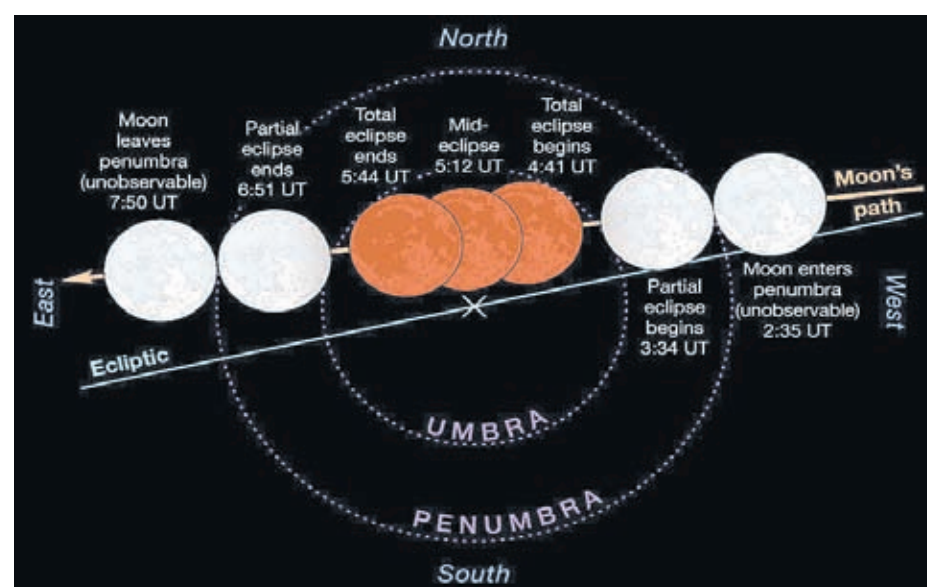
Monday 12:41 AM local time (UTC 04:41) - The Moon reaches a total eclipse, at this point the moon will be completely red and be well on its way crossing the Earth's shadow.

Monday 1:12 AM local time (UTC 05:12) - The eclipse will reach its maximum, here the moon will be closest to the center of Earth's shadow.

Monday 1:43 AM local time (UTC 05:43) - The total eclipse comes to an end.

Monday 2:50 AM local time (UTC 06:50) - The partial eclipse comes to an end.

Monday 3:48 AM local time (UTC 07:48) - The penumbral eclipse comes to an end.



You can enjoy the eclipse anywhere on the island so long as you have a clear view of the moon that night and the weather is cooperating.

For more information check out the facebook page of space and nature aruba foundation or also follow this event live on www.arubaastroresearch.webs.com. □

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Honoring of loyal and friendly visitor's at Marriott Surf Club

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitor and Goodwill Ambassador. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees are the lovely couple Jeffrey and Diane Dingman and couple Stephen and Sheri Savage from New York.

Richardson also had the great pleasure to honor Carmine Puniello who has been coming to the Island for more than 20 years.

The honorees stated that they love the island very much, especially for the year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Marriott Surf Club presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



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Aruba to Me

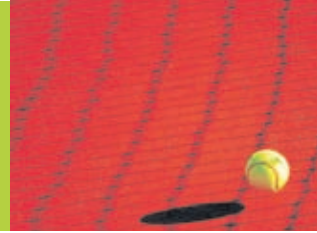
ORANJESTAD – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory.

Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today's newspaper we received a great picture from Charlene Bruce from Ontario Canada. She wrote: Aruba to me is the majestic pelicans. ☐



SPORTS



United States' Amanda Anisimova makes a backhand return to Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus during their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

All of 17, Anisimova of U.S. scores upset at Australian Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH
MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

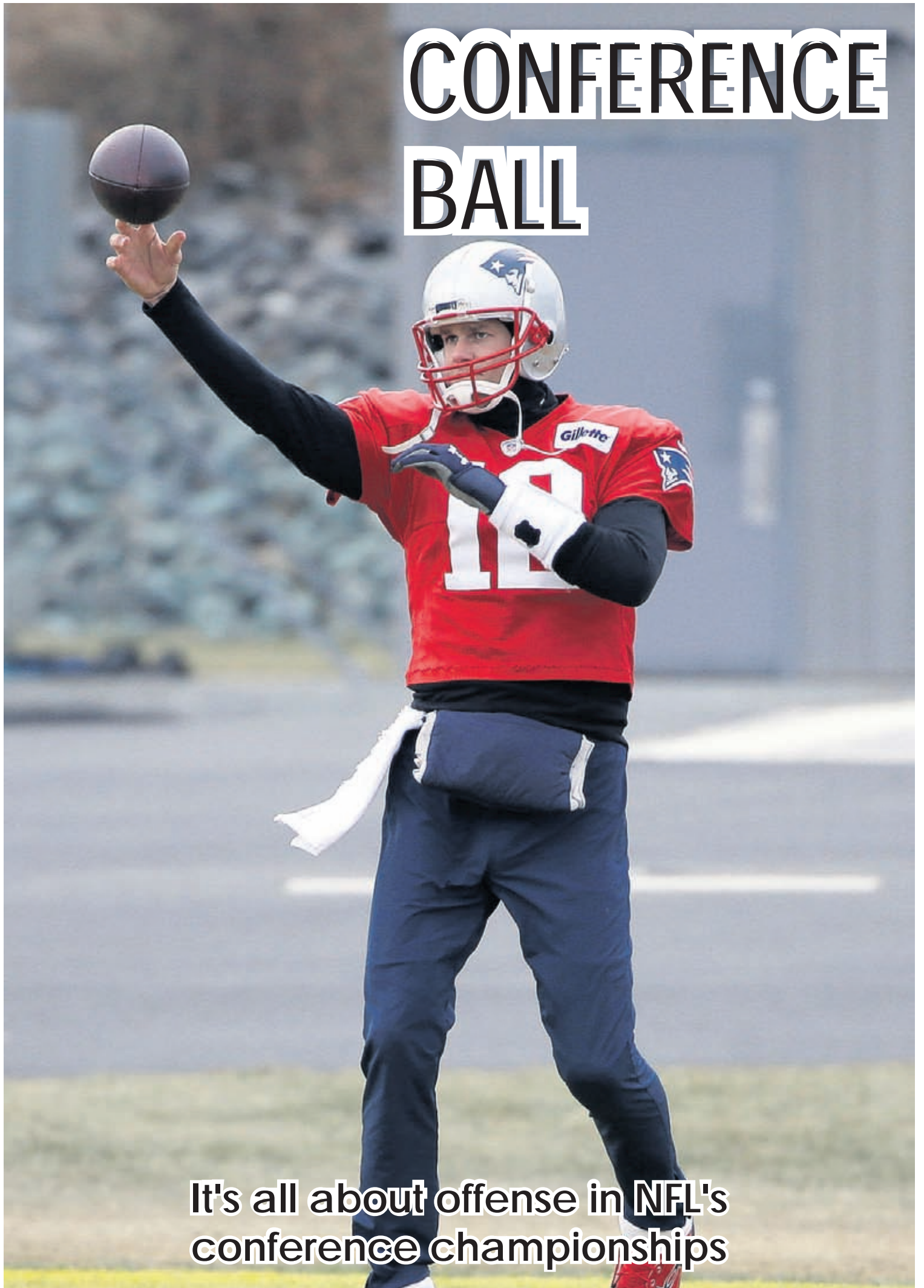
— All of 17, never the winner of a Grand Slam match until this week, Amanda Anisimova is making quite a first impression at the Australian Open.

Anisimova showed precisely why there are those who consider her a possible future star, producing one spectacular shot after another Friday to upset 11th-seeded Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-3, 6-2 and reach the fourth round.

"I want to win this tournament," Anisimova said, tapping her right index finger on a table for emphasis at her post-match news conference. "Right now." She is the youngest American to get this far at Melbourne Park since Jennifer Capriati in 1993 — and at any Grand Slam tournament since Serena Williams at the 1998 French Open.

Continued on Next Page

CONFERENCE BALL



It's all about offense in NFL's conference championships

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady throws the ball while warming up during an NFL football practice, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press
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AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Continued from Page 17

Pretty heady company. "This is an unreal feeling," Anisimova said. "I can't believe that this is happening right now."

Believe it, kid. She captured a ton of attention on Day 5, when defending champion Caroline Wozniacki was knocked out by 2008 champion Maria Sharapova 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Another American woman, 35th-ranked Danielle Collins, joined Anisimova in earning a debut trip to the round of 16 at a major with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over No. 19 Caroline Garcia. Up next for Collins will be three-time major champion and former No. 1 Angelique Kerber, who needed less than an hour to overwhelm 240th-ranked Australian wild-card entry Kimberly Birrell 6-1, 6-0.

At the 2006 U.S. Open, when she was 19, Sharapova became the most recent teen to claim a Slam title. Anisimova grew up cheering for Sharapova — they now share an agent — and would love to match her feat of winning a major before age 20. Who would doubt her?

"I respect her a lot, because I think she's young and has a great game. I mean, she's really proving what she can do," said Sharapova, who sat at the same table as Anisimova at their agent's wedding last year. "She has a really bright future ahead of her."

It's not just that Anisimova, who was born in New Jersey and is based in Florida, has knocked off two

seeded players already, including the hard-hitting Sabalenka, who was many a pundit's pick for a deep run at Melbourne Park.

Or that she's dropped a measly total of 17 games through three matches.

It's the way the 87th-ranked Anisimova — there is no one younger in the WTA's top 100 — is doing it, with clean and dangerous shot-making and impeccable court coverage.

Take the shot — shot of the match? Of the tournament? Of the year so far? — that she produced at 3-0, 15-all in the second set. It was a 12-stroke exchange in which Sabalenka held the upper hand throughout, steering Anisimova from corner to corner. It culminated with one sprint by Anisimova to her right for a forehand, then a sprint to her left for a backhand, followed by yet another switch of direction for a sprint back to her right. Her momentum carried her well wide of the doubles alley as she conjured up a "How did she do that?!" squash-like forehand that looped past Sabalenka and somehow landed in a corner for a winner, drawing raucous appreciation from the crowd at Margaret Court Arena — and an ever-so-slight smile from Anisimova.

"I'm really feeling good out here," said Anisimova, who is coached by her father, as well as the same person who's worked with her since she was 9. "I'm playing some really good tennis."



Spain's Fernando Verdasco sits between sets while competing against Croatia's Marin Cilic in their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, early Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019.

Associated Press

That's an understatement. She delivered more winners than Sabalenka, 21-12, as well as fewer unforced errors, 13-9. Anisimova won all eight of her service games, saving the lone break point she faced. She broke the hard-serving Sabalenka four times.

Anisimova's first trip to Australia, and third appearance in the main draw at a major, now progresses to Week 2 and a matchup against two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová, who beat Belinda Bencic 6-1, 6-4.

On a rainy afternoon that saw the roofs closed on the three main courts, and play delayed on smaller arenas, Sharapova advanced to face No. 15 Ash Barty of Australia, while 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens beat No. 31 Petra

Martić 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5) and now meets Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia.

In the men's draw, Roger Federer dispatched one youngster and set his sights on facing another.

The 37-year-old Federer, seeking a third consecutive title in Melbourne, dismissed 21-year-old Taylor Fritz of the U.S. 6-2, 7-5, 6-2. Federer now takes on 20-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece, who eliminated Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4.

"We all want them to win all the big stuff, but it just takes time," Federer said about the newest generation of challengers. "I'm still giving them a hard time, sometimes."

Also advancing was the man Federer beat in last year's final, Marin Cilic. He overcame two match

points — opponent Fernando Verdasco double-faulted one of them away — and erased a two-set hole to win 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (8), 6-3 in a contest that lasted more than 4 hours and ended just before 1 a.m.

Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion, now faces No. 22 Roberto Bautista-Agut, a 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 winner against No. 10 Karen Khachanov.

Rafael Nadal beat 19-year-old Australian Alex de Minaur 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 and now gets 2010 Wimbledon runner-up Tomas Berdych. Frances Tiafoe, an American who turns 21 on Sunday, got to the fourth round at a major for the first time by defeating Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-7 (3), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Tiafoe now meets No. 20 Grigor Dimitrov, who is being coached by Andre Agassi. □

Marco Schwarz wins World Cup Alpine combined event

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**

AP Sports Writer

WENGEN, Switzerland (AP)

— For an event that risks losing its Olympic status next month, Alpine combined put on a good show Friday. Marco Schwarz won the men's World Cup race, using a solid downhill run to retain his first-leg advantage in slalom.

Schwarz was 0.42 seconds ahead of Victor Muffat-Jeandet, the 2018 Olympic bronze medalist in combined from France. Olympic silver medalist Alexis

Pinturault was third, 1.12 behind Schwarz.

Alpine combined's place in the sport is at risk after the world championships in Sweden next month, where a decision is pending to replace it with parallel slalom racing at future Olympics and worlds.

That could still suit the 23-year-old Schwarz, who got his first World Cup win on New Year's Day in the parallel format in Oslo.

Schwarz is having a breakout year after being one of Austria's top teenage pros-

pects. He was a three-time gold medalist at the 2012 Winter Youth Olympics in Innsbruck, and two years later a junior world champion in super-G.

Despite his talent for speed, and fourth place in combined at the Pyeongchang Olympics, Schwarz focuses on technical gate events — slalom and giant slalom — in the World Cup.

Schwarz was runner-up in slalom in Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, last month, then wasted a first-run lead in slaloms in Zagreb and

Adelboden by straddling gates.

"I didn't think so much about them, where I pushed the limits and it was a bit too much," Schwarz said.

Both of those failures came when Schwarz was chasing a target time posted by the world's best skier, Marcel Hirscher, who is also Olympic champion in combined. Hirscher skipped Friday's race to focus on the slalom on Sunday.

The 2019 worlds in Are could be a swansong for combined in favor of televi-

sion-friendly parallel racing preferred by broadcasters and promoted by the International Ski Federation.

The battle is not over, according to Muffat-Jeandet, who said he believes parallel racing has disappointed ski officials who supported its development.

It was revived at the 1988 Calgary Olympics and provided American skiers Ted Ligety, in 2006, with his first Olympic gold medal and Bode Miller, in 2010, with his only Olympic title. □

Wizards beat Knicks in London on goaltending call

By The Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Allonzo Trier goaltended on Thomas Bryant's layup with 0.4 seconds remaining, giving the Washington Wizards a 101-100 victory over the New York Knicks at The O2 Arena on Thursday night. Bradley Beal had 26 points and nine rebounds, and Otto Porter Jr. added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards. They outscored the Knicks 24-11 in the fourth quarter.

Emmanuel Mudiay scored 25 points and Luke Kornet added 16 points for the Knicks in their fifth straight loss. New York center Enes Kanter did not travel with the team for the game because of fears over his safety as an outspoken critic of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

LAKERS 138, THUNDER 128, OT

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kyle Kuzma scored 32 points to help Los Angeles beat Oklahoma City in overtime without injured LeBron James.

The four-time MVP missed his 12th straight game with a left groin strain, but the Lakers still pulled off a solid road win. Ivica Zubac had a career-high 26 points and Lonzo Ball added 18 for the Lakers, who improved to 5-7 without their star.

Paul George scored 27

points and Terrance Ferguson added 21 for the Thunder. Russell Westbrook had 26 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds but shot just 7 of 30.

The Thunder lost despite making a franchise-record 21 3-pointers and leading by 17 in the first half. They have dropped five of six. Westbrook missed two layups in the final minute but hit three free throws with 2.9 seconds remaining in regulation to tie it.

RAPTORS 111, SUNS 109

TORONTO (AP) — Pascal Siakam scored basket just before time expired to lift Toronto past Phoenix.

Siakam had 10 points and 12 rebounds, Ibaka scored 22 points and Kyle Lowry had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Raptors. They have won eight straight at home and six of seven overall.

Devin Booker scored 30 points for Phoenix, and Deandre Ayton had 15 points and 17 rebounds.

76ERS 120, PACERS 96

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Joel Embiid had 22 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists to lead Philadelphia past Indiana for its seventh victory in nine games.

Jimmy Butler added 27 points, eight assists and five rebounds. Former 76ers player Thaddeus Young led Indiana with 27 points.

NUGGETS 135, BULLS 105

DENVER (AP) — Jamal Murray scored 22 of his 25 points in the third quarter, Nikola Jokic finished two rebounds shy of another triple-double and Denver routed Chicago.

Jokic had 18 points and 11 assists to help the Nuggets rebound from a 142-111 drubbing Tuesday night against Golden State. Lauri Markkanen scored 27 points for Chicago. The Bulls have lost nine a row.

HORNETS 114, KINGS 95

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Kemba Walker scored 23 points, surpassing 11,000 for his career, and Charlotte beat Sacramento.

Miles Bridges and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist each had 15 points and Willy Hernangomez added 11 points and 16 rebounds. Buddy Hield led the Kings with 24 points. □



Washington Wizards guard Bradley Beal (3), center, drives to the basket flanked by New York Knicks center Mitchell Robinson (26), left, and his teammate guard Damyean Dotson (21), during an NBA basketball game between New York Knicks and Washington Wizards at the O2 Arena, in London, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

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Sorry America, team you love to hate headed to Super Bowl

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer
NOT THEM AGAIN!

Sorry America — at least outside of New England — but the team you love to hate is headed back to the Super Bowl.

Sure, there are negatives to point out with these Patriots. They haven't looked much more than mediocre on the road. Their defense is vulnerable, especially against dynamic passers, and Kansas City certainly has one of those in Patrick Mahomes.

New England's coaching staff tends to take away an opponent's biggest threat. Who is that with the Chiefs, though? Mahomes has Tyreek Hill, Travis Kelce and Sammy Watkins as dangerous targets. He has a running game that hasn't really missed Kareem Hunt since he was released.

Oh yeah, Tom Brady also is 41. At times, he's looked it this season.

And there are so many positives to list, especially when the Patriots (12-5) get this far. Such as being to eight Super Bowls with Brady at quarterback, winning five. Such as their superb demon-



In this Dec. 23, 2018, file photo, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) against the Pittsburgh Steelers in New Orleans. Associated Press

stration of the Chargers, an opponent many thought was the most balanced team in the postseason; though the Chargers' defense looked from the outset as if it wanted no part of frigid Foxborough.

Oh yeah, Brady is 41. He's

seen pretty much everything, and will particularly like the looks of the spotty pass coverage Kansas City (13-4) provides.

The entire environment seems to work for New England.

"Yeah, I think this team

thrives on it," receiver Philip Dorsett says. "Obviously, there's no elephant in the room, we're 3-5 on the road and everybody is going to criticize us for that. We've got our backs against the wall and we've just got to go out there and play our best game. That's the only thing that really matters."

It also matters that Chiefs coach Andy Reid rarely outsmarts the Patriots. Indeed, Reid's only Super Bowl trip was spoiled by New England when it beat Reid's Eagles for the 2004 title. Reid is 2-6 vs. the Patriots, and lost 43-40 on Oct. 14 at Gillette Stadium.

The Chiefs are 3-point favorites, which accounts for the home-field edge. Except in the upcoming arctic conditions, and with the pedigree of the Patriots, this is a matchup Kansas City won't win.

UPSET SPECIAL: PATRIOTS, 27-23

Los Angeles Rams (plus 3) at New Orleans Saints

A 45-35 shootout victory for Drew Brees and the Saints on Nov. 4 came in the Superdome. These two have a return matchup Sunday to get to the Super Bowl,

and with all their firepower, this one could come down to one factor: experience.

That edge clearly falls to the hosts. New Orleans (14-3) has been a postseason regular since coach Sean Payton and Brees hooked up in 2006. This is the Saints' third NFC championship appearance — a loss at Chicago in January 2007, an overtime win over Minnesota at home three years later. The Saints won the Super Bowl that season, as well.

Los Angeles (14-3) had the only unanimous member of the All-Pro team, defensive tackle Aaron Donald. And the Saints lost key DT Sheldon Rankins to a torn Achilles tendon last weekend. Still, this side of the ball looks like a wash.

The site of this game is more critical than in the AFC. The way the Superdome rocks can be disruptive to opponents, and uplifting to the homies. Just look at the Saints' win against defending champion Philadelphia last Sunday.

So give us Brees' calmness and creativity over Jared Goff's relative newness.

BEST BET: SAINTS, 34-26. □



In this July 28, 2018, file photo, Dallas Cowboys offensive coordinator Scott Linehan talks with the media after morning practice at NFL football training camp, in Oxnard, Calif.

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**
AP Pro Football Writer
DALLAS (AP) — Scott Line-

han is out as offensive coordinator of the Dallas Cowboys only days after

Linehan out as Cowboys offensive coordinator after 5 seasons

coach Jason Garrett sent mixed messages about the future for the oft-criticized assistant.

Garrett, in a statement released by the team Friday, described the move as a mutual decision after he and Linehan had some open and positive discussions this week. Linehan, who just completed his fifth season in Dallas, had one more season left on his contract.

"This was very much a mutual decision, and there was a great deal of common ground and shared understanding between both of us during our meetings," Garrett said. "Scott has had an incredibly positive impact on our football team. He has been instrumental in the development

and success of a significant number of our veteran and younger players."

The Cowboys rebounded after a 3-5 start to win the NFC East. They beat the Seattle Seahawks in a home wild-card game before a 30-22 loss at the Los Angeles Rams last weekend.

Garrett said on his radio show Monday he thought Linehan would return and didn't expect any significant changes to his staff. But at a news conference later in the day, Garrett was far from definitive and said discussions about a coaching staff hadn't happened. Dallas' slow start this season was largely blamed on a misfiring offense. There were questions about creativity, including from Hall of Fame quarterback-

turned-analyst Troy Aikman, who won three Super Bowls with the Cowboys in the 1990s.

The Cowboys were much better offensively in the second half of the season after sending their first-round pick in this year's draft to Oakland for receiver Amari Cooper. But the Cowboys were one of just four teams to convert fewer than half their trips inside the 20-yard line into touchdowns.

During the regular season, the Cowboys averaged 344 total yards and 21.2 points a game to rank 22nd in the NFL in both categories. Their only loss the last half of the regular season was 23-0 at Indianapolis on Dec. 16, the first time in 15 years they were held scoreless. □

Maple Leafs beat NHL-leading Lightning 4-2

By The Associated Press
TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Mitch Marner scored a go-ahead goal late in the second period, Nazem Kadri and Patrick Marleau each had a goal and an assist, and the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the NHL-leading Tampa Bay Lightning 4-2 on Thursday night.

Frederik Andersen stopped 36 shots, and Zach Hyman added an empty-netter for the Maple Leafs.

Brayden Point and Victor Hedman scored for Tampa Bay, and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 27 saves. Nikita Kucherov, the NHL points leader with 76, had an assist after two straight games without a point.

The Lightning have a 14-point lead in the Atlantic Division over Toronto. Tampa Bay's nine-game home winning streak ended.

BRUINS 5, BLUES 2

BOSTON (AP) — Chris Wagner scored the go-ahead goal 5:27 into the third period, Tuukka Rask tied a Boston record with his 252nd career victory and the Bruins beat St. Louis.

Rask made 28 saves and matched the franchise mark set by Cecil "Tiny" Thompson, who was 252-153 with 63 ties. Rask, the 2014 Vezina Trophy winner, is 252-145-56 in 474 games with Boston.

Torey Krug, David Backes, Brad Marchand and Sean Kuraly also scored for the Bruins.

Ryan O'Reilly and Carl Gunnarsson scored for St. Louis. Blues left wing David Perron extended his NHL-leading and career-best points streak to 13 games with an assist on O'Reilly's goal.

DUCKS 3, WILD 0

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — John Gibson made 37 saves for his second shutout of the season, Adam Henrique and Rickard Rakell scored 11 seconds apart in the first period and Anaheim beat Minnesota to end its franchise-record 12-game losing streak.

Brian Gibbons added his second goal of the season for Anaheim, which made

four trades in the previous three days. Alex Stalock allowed three goals on eight shots for the Wild before being pulled in favor of Devan Dubnyk, who stopped 15 shots after he was expected to get another night of rest.

JETS 5, PREDATORS 1

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Connor Hellebuyck made 37 saves and Winnipeg beat Nashville to stay alone atop the Central Division, four points ahead of the Predators.

Brendan Lemieux scored twice, and Mason Appleton, Bryan Little and Brandon Tanev added goals to help the Jets win their fourth straight. Viktor Arvidsson scored for Nashville.

KINGS 2, STARS 1

DALLAS (AP) — Dustin Brown scored a rare Los Angeles power-play goal, goalie Jack Campbell beat the team that drafted him and the Kings moved out of the NHL basement.

Brown's goal came in the first period when he deflected in a shot by Drew Doughty. Carl Hagelin added a goal in the second. Campbell made 29 saves, allowing only Esa Lindell's goal with 1:04 left and Dallas goalie Ben Bishop off for an extra skater.

RANGERS 4, BLACKHAWKS

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Kreider had a goal and an assist, Henrik Lundqvist moved into a tie for sixth place on the NHL victory list and New York beat Chicago.

Mats Zuccarello, Filip Chytil and Mika Zibanejad also scored to help New York win for the third time in four games after a five-game skid. Lundqvist stopped 24 shots to tie Terry Sawchuk with 445 wins.

Brandon Saad, Alex DeBrincat and Dominik Kahun scored for Chicago. The Blackhawks have lost five straight and seven of eight.

ISLANDERS 4, DEVILS 1

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Anders Lee scored twice and New York beat New Jersey for its ninth victory in 11 games.

Michael Dal Colle had his



Toronto Maple Leafs right wing Mitchell Marner (16) celebrates with the bench after his goal against the Tampa Bay Lightning during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

first NHL goal and Jordan Eberle also scored, Nick Leddy had two assists and

Robin Lehner made 16 saves to improve to 10-1-0 in his last 11 appearances.

Andy Greene scored for New Jersey. □

Phil Mickelson shoots 68 to take 2-shot lead into weekend

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — Phil Mickelson birdied four of his last five holes Friday in the Desert Classic to take a two-stroke lead into the weekend in his first event of the year.

A day after matching his career-low score with 12-under 60 at La Quinta Country Club, the 48-year-old Mickelson had a 68 on PGA West's Nicklaus Tournament Course to reach 16 under.

"I struck the ball every bit as well, I just didn't putt anywhere close to as well as I did yesterday," said Mickelson, the tournament winner in 2002 and 2004.

Lefty will play the final two rounds on PGA West's Stadium Course.

"I'm starting to drive the ball a lot longer and straighter than I have in a while and so that sets up nicely for that course," Mickelson said. "I feel like I can play aggressively with the way I'm hitting it off the tee."

Curtis Luck was second after a 66 on the Nicklaus layout. The 22-year-old Australian rebounded from a bogey on the par-3 eighth with a closing birdie on the par-4 ninth.

"Just like yesterday, very

solid, lot of greens, a lot of fairways," said Luck, the 2016 U.S. Amateur champion. "Just missed a couple of short ones today, unfortunately. But putting's been great."

Adam Hadwin and Steve Marino were 13 under, and defending champion Jon Rahm was another stroke back with Wyndham Clark and Joey Garber.

Mickelson birdied the par-4 fifth and sixth holes, the par-5 seventh and closed with another on No. 9. On his opening nine, he birdied the par-5 11th and par-3 12th, then gave back the strokes with a double bogey after hitting into the water on the par-4 18th.

"It really wasn't as hard a shot as I made it look," Mickelson said about his approach on 18. "I had a decent lie after dropping off the cart path, but I had the ball a little bit below my feet and a slight uphill lie, which the tendency on those shots is to pull it and I just didn't adjust for that very well and I pulled it right in the water."

Mickelson is making his first tour start since early October and first competitive appearance since beating



Phil Mickelson watches his putt on the 10th hole during the second round of the Desert Classic golf tournament on the Nicklaus Tournament Course at PGA West on Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, in La Quinta, Calif.

Associated Press

Tiger Woods in Las Vegas in November in a one-day, made-for-TV event. He won the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship last year for his 43rd PGA Tour title and first since the 2013 British Open.

"There's two areas that guys tend to decline when they hit about mid 40s or so forth," Mickelson said. "One is speed and one is putting.

The last two years I've done a good job of improving my putting. I've actually putted better the last few years than I ever have in my career. The last thing is speed, because if I have speed with the driver then I can worry more about accuracy."

Hadwin had a 66 at La Quinta, the course where the Canadian shot 59 two

years ago.

"I'm playing some extremely good golf again here in the desert and just got to keep moving forward," Hadwin said.

Marino had a hole-in-one on the seventh hole at La Quinta in a 65. "There was like probably 15 people behind the green, but it was weird, they didn't really go bananas," Marino said. □

Brooke Henderson leads by 2 shots in LPGA opener in Florida

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Brooke Henderson of Canada kept out of trouble and kept bogeys off her card Friday on her way to a 4-under 67 and a two-shot lead in the Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, the winners-only start to the LPGA Tour season. Henderson had the only bogey-free round at Tranquilo Golf Club at Four Seasons.

Ariya Jutanugarn, the No. 1 player in women's golf who captured every major award last season, made two bogeys, including the par-3 closing hole. The Thai is not sure how she didn't make more, considering how she hit the ball.

She mixed in six birdies over an 11-hole stretch and it added up to a 67, leaving her two shots back and

tied for second along with Lydia Ko (68) and Eun-Hee Ji (67).

"I didn't expect to finish 4 under today at all because I hit everywhere. I keep missing fairways and greens, and I'm at 4 under," Jutanugarn said. "I'm going to say my short game helped me a lot today because I keep missing the green — and I'm not missing by two yards, I'm missing by like 10, 15 yards."

No matter. She was poised going into the weekend to get her encore season off to a big start.

Henderson was at 10-under 132 as the seven-time tour winner tries to match Sandra Post for the most LPGA titles by a Canadian. Henderson has had at least a share of the 36-hole lead in five of her seven victories.

"It's always fun to be in the final group and be in contention," Henderson said. "It's what we play for pretty much every single week. It's nice to be here. It's only the halfway point, but I still need to make a lot of birdies and keep hitting it to win." She didn't make as many birdies as she wanted in the second round, but it was enough. Henderson began the back nine with two straight birdies, and closed with seven straight pars to stay in the lead.

Stacy Lewis, in her first tournament as a mother, followed her opening 66 with a 74. That dropped her to 17th place in the 26-player field limited only to LPGA Tour winners each of the last two seasons.

The field also has a strong celebrity component, with

49 athletes and entertainers competing in a modified Stableford format for a \$500,000 purse. Former tennis player Mardy Fish posted 39 points for the second straight day, but with bogeys over his last two holes, his lead was down to one point over former Atlanta Braves pitcher John Smoltz. Jutanugarn played the second round with former NBA star Ray Allen, and even though she was hitting shots all over the course, she found plenty of time to talk. "I asked him how to manage when you're like the best player, like how to manage everything," Jutanugarn said. "We talked all 18 holes, and he helped me a lot with like how to manage, be like a top player. ... It means so much to me. Ray is so nice to me. I kept

asking him questions." Mirim Lee had a 69 and was alone in fifth place, while Lexi Thompson (69) and Marina Alex (67) were another shot behind.

Henderson won two times last year, including her national open. She won the KPMG Women's PGA for her first major the year before. Despite shutting it down for two weeks over the break while in Canada, she likes the mix she had of rest and practice when she got back to the work.

"Overall, I'm really happy to be in double digits after two rounds. That's pretty cool, minus 10," she said. "So I feel like there's not too much wrong, but just maybe a little bit of inconsistency. Some putts, I wasn't hitting them quite as well as I would have liked." □

Pacquiao awaits Broner bout in crossroads fight at age 40

By **TIM DAHLBERG**

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Manny Pacquiao has been beating the odds since he was a teenager in the Philippines stuffing his pockets with metal at weigh-ins so he wouldn't look like a 98-pound weakling.

Nearly a quarter century later, Pacquiao is still up for a challenge. He fights Saturday night against Adrien Broner in a true crossroads bout that will determine a lot about his future in the ring. Chasing a second fight with Floyd Mayweather, Pacquiao will be tested by a younger and talented fighter who has a lot to prove himself.

He's 40 now, an age where fighters either have long stopped lacing up the gloves or are very careful in picking opponents. Pacquiao is not only still fighting, but willing to take on a 29-year-old who thinks of himself as a young Mayweather.

And he's not terribly concerned about the possibility he might lose. "I still have that killer instinct and the fire in my eyes is still there," Pacquiao said. "That aggressiveness, the interest in this career is still there 100 percent. The speed and the power are still there." That showed in a gym session this week in Hollywood, where Pacquiao looked sharp and fast while hitting the mitts with trainer Freddie Roach. The two have

reunited for the fight, Pacquiao's first in the U.S. in more than two years. But while Pacquiao is favored, there's always a chance in boxing that age often catches up to a fighter in the wrong place — the ring.

And that adds some intrigue to seeing a fighter who has been so much of a part of the fabric of boxing for the last 15 years. "He's unbelievable," Roach said. "His work ethic is great, he has fast hands and he still hits hard. I think he actually wants to knock this opponent out."

That may be asking a lot since Pacquiao went nearly a decade without knocking anyone out before stopping Lucas Martin Matthysse in a fight in Malaysia last July. But if Pacquiao needed any more motivation he got it after Broner mocked the Parkinson's that Roach has. "Manny's a great guy to have on your side," Roach said. Indeed, Broner has done his part to sell the fight by acting boorish and flashing money around like his mentor, Mayweather. At this week's final news conference, Broner went into a profane rant about Showtime announcer Al Bernstein, though his comments about Pacquiao were more respectful.

"Pacquiao's a legend," Broner said. "He'll always go down as one of the best in the boxing business. But I just feel like it's my time to take over this sport and I'm coming to take the throne from Pacquiao." Broner (33-3-1, 24 knockouts) certainly has the skills to do just that. He has long been considered an elite fighter, though he has lost most of his bigger fights and tends to be undisciplined in the ring. To beat Pacquiao he will have to use his speed to match that of the Filipino senator, and figure out a way to deal with an unorthodox style that has puzzled opponents since Pacquiao began fighting for \$2 purses so he could help his mother feed the family. "Adrien Broner is not a tuneup fight," Pacquiao said. "He's a former champion. He's fast, he moves fast and he's a good boxer." Unfortunately, a lot of fans won't be watching. The fight is on Showtime pay-per-view and the price (\$74.95) is lofty for a fighter a few years removed from his prime. Still, Pacquiao will make millions, and Broner will have a big payday of his own. Both would also profit with a win, with Broner regaining some of his reputation and Pacquiao putting himself in line for another possible huge payday against Mayweather, who still says he is



Manny Pacquiao, left, and Adrien Broner pose for photographers during a news conference Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019, in Las Vegas. The two are scheduled to fight in a welterweight championship bout on Saturday.

Associated Press

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officially retired.

Pacquiao blamed an injured shoulder for his poor performance in the 2015 bout, a lackluster affair won by Mayweather. A second Mayweather fight would cap Pacquiao's career and put him closer to retirement and full-time duties in the Senate in his home country. It's on Pacquiao's mind, as well as the mind of his millions of fans. "You cannot avoid people will ask if there's a rematch with Floyd Mayweather," Pacquiao said, "because I think they have a big question mark in their mind and also in their heart about what happened in that fight." □

Andrade set for first defense of middleweight title at MSG

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Demetrius Andrade is just a few months from winning a middleweight title but perhaps still far away from fights with the division's biggest names.

Canelo Alvarez, Gennady Golovkin and Daniel Jacobs are the headliners at 160 pounds, and while one or more of them could someday be in Andrade's future, it doesn't appear to be the near future. Andrade isn't about to sit

around waiting. He's done too much of that already. So he gets right back into action Friday night, making the first defense of his WBO belt against Russian Artur Akavov in the Theater at Madison Square Garden.

"It's great to be back in the ring," Andrade said. "It's been a long time since I've been this active and so like I said before, every opportunity that comes my way I'm going to take."

Andrade (26-0, 16 KOs) is a former 154-pound champion who won a middle-

weight belt on Oct. 20 in Boston, dropping Walter Kautondokwa four times and cruising to a lopsided unanimous decision. Andrade had been scheduled to face champion Billy Joe Saunders, but Saunders tested positive for a banned stimulant and was stripped of his belt.

"We always knew he was going to win that world championship because now he's a three-time, two-weight world champion, and the fights that are ahead for him in the

160-pound division are breathtaking," promoter Eddie Hearn said.

Alvarez and Jacobs will meet May 4 in a unification bout. Both fighters, like Andrade, are aligned with DAZN, which will stream Friday's card, so perhaps there's a route to a fight with one or both of them eventually. Jacobs, the IBF champion, is also promoted by Hearn's Matchroom Boxing USA, so that could help lead to another opportunity. But after sitting out for a year

before winning his title, the former U.S. Olympian from Providence, Rhode Island wants to stay busy until one of those fights emerges.

"I believe I am the greatest talent out there at the 154, 60 and maybe even 68 weight class division, but right now in front of me I've got to take care of business come Friday," Andrade said.

That comes against Akavov (19-2, 8 KOs), who is getting his second shot at a title. He lost a decision to Saunders in December 2016. □

Why U.S. classrooms are starting to resemble arcades

By MICHAEL MELIA

Associated Press

WALLINGFORD, Conn.

(AP) — It's 1 o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon in Wallingford, Connecticut, and about 20 children are watching a screen at the front of the room as they take turns navigating challenges and collecting virtual currency to unlock powers, outfits and pets for their characters.

The game they're playing has some similarities to the online battle game "Fortnite." But the kids aren't fighting one another — they're racking up points for participation and good behavior in their classroom at Dag Hammarskjöld Middle School, where their teacher is presenting a home economics lesson with help from Classcraft, a fantasy-themed educational program.

"It's actually a lot of fun," said 13-year-old Caiden McManus. "The pets — that's my favorite thing to do. To train the pets, you gain as many gold pieces as possible so you can get the new outfits and stuff." Peek inside your average classroom these days, and you're likely to see teachers using apps, websites and software that borrow elements from video games to connect with students living technology-infused lives. By all accounts, they're fun to use, and studies have found that some can be effective. But there is also skepticism about how often students who use them are better educated, or just better entertained.

Dag Hammarskjöld consumer sciences teacher Gianna Gurga said she had been looking for a way to get more out of her students. Students have been more motivated and performed better in her classes since she began using Classcraft in spring 2017, she said, and she has signed up a handful of other teachers in the school.

"My kids are so addicted to it in the best way possible," Gurga said.

In one session, the classroom filled with suspenseful music as Gurga began



In this Sept. 20, 2018 photo, fifth grade student Ashlynn De Filippis, left, works math problems on the DreamBox system as teacher Heather Dalton, center rear, works with other students in class at Charles Barnum Elementary School in Groton, Conn.

Associated Press

rapid-fire questioning. With each correct answer, chosen from multiple choices on the screen, students gained points that could be used for avatar upgrades, privileges like listening to music in class, and a competition against other classrooms. The available characters -- warriors, mages and healers -- each have different powers and must collaborate to succeed.

Points are awarded for class participation as well as good behavior, but the kids can also be penalized, as was the case for one of Gurga's seventh-graders who told a classmate to "shut up."

A middle school in New York City, Quest to Learn, was the first public school to fully embrace game-based learning when it opened nearly a decade ago. The Manhattan school, developed by game theorists with the Institute of Play, has been closely followed since by researchers hoping for hard evidence of results from technology-inspired gamification.

In the last school year, 43 percent of Quest to Learn's

students were up to state standards on the state English test, compared to 41 percent citywide, and 29 percent of its students met state standards on the state math test, compared to 33 percent citywide. But advocates say standardized testing alone does not tell the story. Outside studies have shown growth in soft skills such as collaboration, creative thinking and empathy, according to Ross Flatt, director of programs and partnerships for the Institute of Play, a nonprofit studio that uses game design principles to develop new learning experiences. To help educators identify programs with promise, the Johns Hopkins University Center for Research and Reform in Education launched a website that rates math and learning programs based on how they meet evidence standards for effectiveness under federal education law. The center's director, Robert Slavin, said there are some programs that have shown positive impacts but on average improvements are small.

"When people talk about

technology transforming everything, it may in the future, but it's not there yet," Slavin said.

Some question whether the graphics, videos and sounds in so many programs are doing harm by teaching students to pursue the rewards.

"Part of life is figuring out how to learn to love things and how to persevere in things even when it's not extrinsically motivated," said Christopher Devers, an education researcher at Johns Hopkins who said his review of the evidence suggests that on balance, games-based approaches tend to influence students in negative ways.

One of the better known

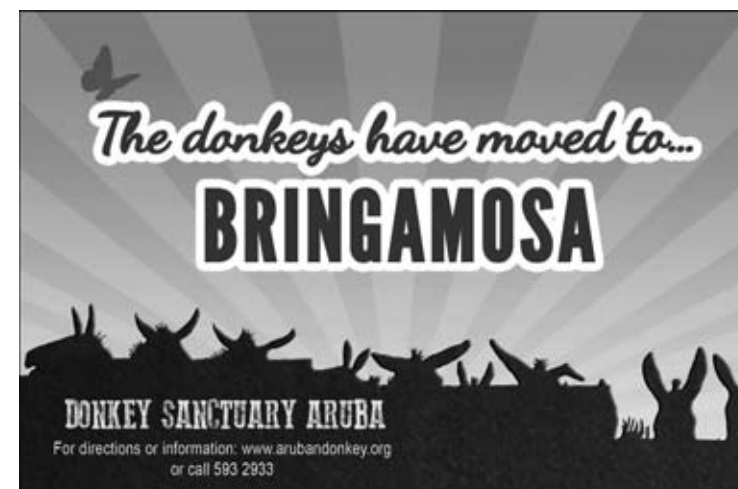
programs, DreamBox, teaches math by offering a series of problems that can grow increasingly challenging as the student enters correct answers. The program, which began as an app for consumers, entered the school market in 2011 and last year had 2.6 million student users. The company charges a fee of \$7,500 per school building per year.

DreamBox CEO Jessie Woolley-Wilson said the program is intended as an aid for teachers who can't be expected to personalize learning for two dozen students simultaneously.

"Let's figure out a way to support a way to deliver the best teaching, and allow the learning guardian to get back to art of teaching," she said. "Technology can deliver that math personalization in a way that can give the learning guardian actionable insights."

In Groton, Connecticut, early users of DreamBox reported anecdotal evidence of improved outcomes and schools are now using it district-wide. In Heather Dalton's fifth-grade classroom at the Charles Barnum Elementary School, students spent the first half of a recent class working individually on DreamBox with headphones on. Information about their level of mastery of fractions was sent to Dalton's laptop, but the students were most excited about the short video-game rewards they received between levels and the coins they gathered for upgrades to their avatars.

"There's a lot of learning," Dalton said, "but it feels like a game to the kids." □



US stocks rise again to build on four-week rally

By MARLEY JAY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks are rising again Friday morning as the market wraps up another strong week with big gains for technology and industrial companies, while banks rose after more of them posted strong fourth-quarter reports. Stock indexes have made big gains since reaching a low point on Christmas Eve, as the S&P 500 has risen for four weeks in a row. Electric car maker Tesla stumbled, however, after saying it will cut 7 percent of its jobs.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index rose 20 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,656 as of 10:25 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 166 points, or 0.7 percent, to 24,536. The Nasdaq composite added 44 points, or 0.6 percent, to 7,128. The Russell 2000 index of smaller and more U.S.-focused companies picked up 8 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,475.

The S&P 500 is on track for its fourth straight weekly gain. It's up 2.3 percent this week and has risen at least 1.9 percent every week during the rally. It's been a long time since stocks had a similar winning streak: according to Ryan Detrick of LPL Financial, the last time the S&P 500 rose at least 1.5 percent a week for four weeks was in early 2009, immediately after the stock market hit its low point in the wake of the 2007-08 financial crisis that caused the Great Recession. That streak lasted for six weeks.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?: Stocks sank in late 2018 as investors worried that



In this Jan. 11, 2019, file photo, trader Frank O'Connell on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Associated Press

global economic growth, and U.S. growth in particular, was going to get worse than they thought. Threats including the U.S.-China trade dispute, rising interest rates in the U.S., slowing growth in China and Europe, and unstable political situations like Brexit all made it seem like 2019 was going to be a disappointing year. Some investors felt a recession in the U.S. or the global economy was a possibility in late 2019 or in 2020.

Over the last three weeks, investors have taken a breath and decided things may not get that bad. The U.S. economy doesn't appear to have slowed much, and there have been some signs the U.S. and China are making gradual progress in their trade negotiations. The Federal Reserve has suggested it doesn't plan to raise interest rates much further in light of slowing

growth and the stock market's recent turmoil. The S&P 500, the main benchmark for U.S. stocks, fell 19.8 percent from late September to late December and has now recovered a little more than half of those losses.

MACHINE EARNING: Trucking and logistics company J.B. Hunt Transportation jumped 5.9 percent to \$105.67 after its fourth-quarter report, and railroad company Union Pacific gained 1.8 percent to \$157.47. Aerospace giant Boeing rose 1 percent to \$362.59.

Among technology companies, software maker Oracle added 1.2 percent to \$49.17 and chipmaker Broadcom rallied 1.6 percent to \$259.34.

BANKS: Financial stocks continued to do better than the rest of the market. State Street rose 4.2 percent to \$74.03 and Sun-Trust jumped 3.8 percent to

\$60.24 following their quarterly reports.

Many large banks reported their fourth-quarter results this week, and they've benefited from gradually rising interest rates as well as the corporate tax cut and other tax law changes at the end of 2017. Bank stocks had a bad year in 2018, in large part because investors weren't sure where interest rates would go. But the stocks tend to do better when traders feel better about the health of the economy because when it's growing, businesses and individuals tend to take out more loans. The S&P 500's index of bank stocks has jumped 8 percent over the last month, while the S&P 500 itself is up 4 percent.

TESLA CUTS: Tesla fell 9.8 percent to \$31.33 after the company said it would cut 7 percent of its jobs. CEO Elon Musk said the cuts are meant to reduce costs as

the company lowers the price for its cars.

He said in a note to staff that the road ahead is "very difficult."

THE SHOE FITS: VF Corp, the maker of brands including Timberland and North Face, surged 11.4 percent to \$81.65 after it raised its forecasts for the year.

BONDS: Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.76 percent from 2.74 percent.

US-CHINA TRADE: China said that its economy czar, Vice Premier Liu He, will visit Washington for talks on Jan. 30-31 aimed at ending the tariff war sparked by U.S. complaints about Beijing's technology ambitions. Business groups and economists were looking for Liu and his American counterpart, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, to take part in talks as a sign lower-level negotiations earlier in Beijing made progress. The Wall Street Journal reported Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin was willing to roll back U.S. tariff hikes on Chinese goods, though it said Lighthizer and other officials opposed that idea.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude jumped 2.6 percent to \$53.42 in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 1.9 percent to \$62.34 a barrel in London.

OVERSEAS: European stocks jumped. Germany's DAX climbed 2 percent and the FTSE 100 in Britain rose 1.7 percent. The French CAC 40 gained 1.5 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 1.2 percent and the Nikkei 225 in Japan rose 1.3 percent. Seoul's Kospi added 0.8 percent. □

Manufacturing surge pushes industrial production up 0.3 pct

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. industrial production increased 0.3 percent in December, led by the biggest surge in manufacturing in ten months.

The Federal Reserve said Friday that that manufacturing output jumped 1.1 percent last month, the

largest gain since February 2018. Automakers drove much of the growth with a 4.7 percent jump in production.

Utility output slumped 6.3 percent amid an unseasonably warm December. Mining output rose 1.5 percent on increased extraction of oil and natural gas. Overall industrial produc-

tion is up 4 percent from a year ago.

"This was a solid report and a good finish to 2018," said Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

The manufacturing sector was also using more of capacity, a sign that companies might need to invest more in equipment and

facilities. Capacity utilization at factories increased 0.7 points to 76.5 percent, a solid increase though that's two points below the long-term average.

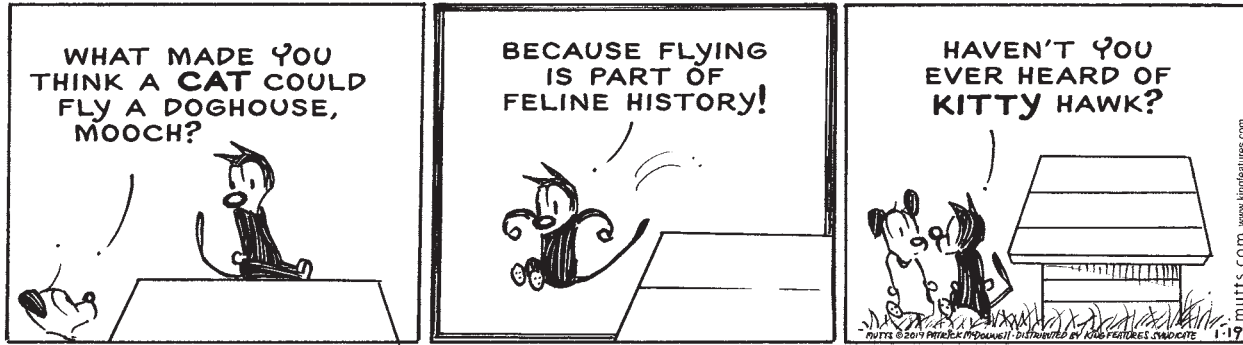
Manufacturers have benefited from a relatively healthy economy, despite concerns about a global slowdown, a trade war between the United States

and China and the waning stimulus from President Donald Trump's tax cuts.

Auto sales improved 0.3 percent in 2018 to 17.27 million vehicles sold.

Yet there are also signs that manufacturers might struggle to keep expanding. Still, any reading above 50 points to continued growth. □

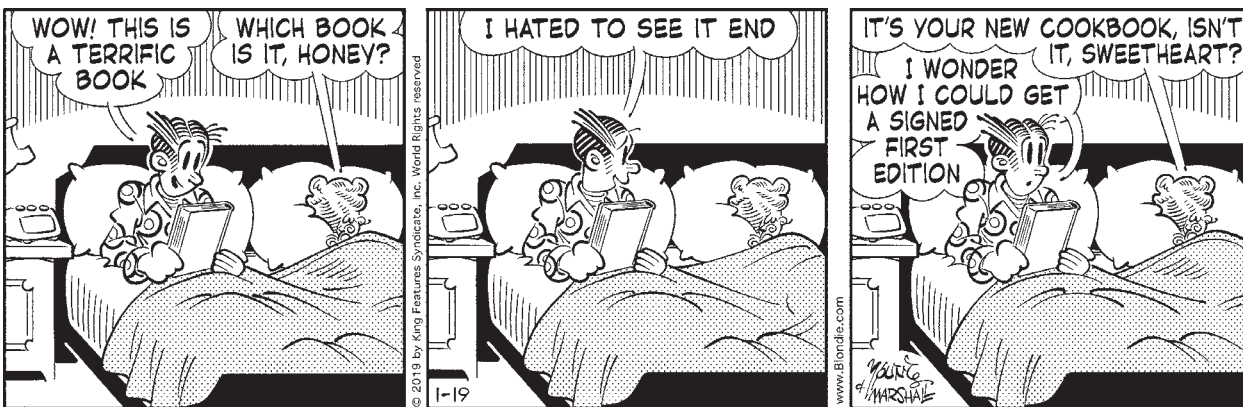
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

4								8
			3	1				
	6		2	8		4		
	1	9			6	3		
	3	4				2	5	
	8		9	3		6		
			1	6				
5								7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

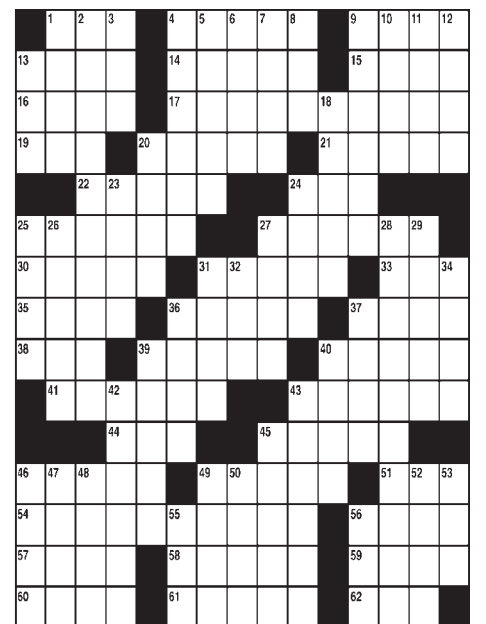
6	1	5	4	8	2	3	9	7
9	2	4	1	7	3	6	8	5
3	8	7	9	5	6	4	2	1
1	7	6	2	4	9	5	3	8
5	3	8	7	6	1	9	4	2
2	4	9	5	3	8	7	1	6
4	6	1	3	2	5	8	7	9
7	5	2	8	9	4	1	6	3
8	9	3	6	1	7	2	5	4

ACROSS

- Farm animal
- hit; big success
- Lose color
- Burrowing animal
- Piece of furniture
- "Rome wasn't built in"
- Jar abruptly
- Draw pictures for a book
- Reason to call in sick
- Bury
- Carrying a gun
- Ridicules
- As flat pancake
- Steals
- 19th-century U.S. president
- Like school paper
- Ornate
- "You're the boss of me!"
- As straight arrow
- Comes upon
- Sign of a past surgery
- Encountered
- Travis or Quaid
- Black card
- Partial price refund
- Rough in texture
- Falsehood
- Single bite
- Evert or Rock
- Stringed instrument
- Unknown John
- Folk singers' gathering
- Eerie sightings
- Prefix for enemy or diocese
- Fund-raising game
- Soft drinks
- Do a fall chore
- Malignant burning
- Yrök. section

DOWN

- Combine, as funds
- Lighten
- Understand
- Smells bad
- Soda shop orders
- Suffix for favor or fashion
- Insulting remark
- "got the whole world in His hands..."
- Ms. Fawcett
- Actor West
- Go out with
- Observed
- Initials for actor Fox
- Delicious
- tea
- Unlock
- Rainbows
- Grand; bridge
- Shrewder
- Actor Griffith
- Neglected
- "All lead to Rome"
- Acceptable
- Common
- conjunction
- Ash or alder
- Destiny
- Quarrel
- Employee's delight
- Average



1/19/19

Friday's Puzzle Solved

ASPS	OARS	OWLS
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HOLD	SOLD	TUSKS
ONES	SUDS	KEYS

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1/19/19

- Lighthearted
- Deep narrow valley
- Dance from Latin America
- Blacken
- Bar mitzvah dance
- "-a-bye Baby..."
- Couple
- Motels
- Fumbler's word
- Feminine ending
- Org. for Kings & Warriors
- Cover-; efforts to hide a misdeed

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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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Total lunar eclipse meets supermoon Sunday night

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— Here comes a total lunar eclipse and supermoon, all wrapped into one.

The moon, Earth and sun will line up this weekend for the only total lunar eclipse this year and next. At the same time, the moon will be ever so closer to Earth and appear slightly bigger and brighter than usual — a supermoon.

"This one is particularly good," said Rice University astrophysicist Patrick Hartigan. "It not only is a supermoon and it's a total eclipse, but the total eclipse also lasts pretty long. It's about an hour."

The whole eclipse starts Sunday night or early Monday, depending on location, and will take about three hours.

It begins with the partial phase around 10:34 p.m. EST Sunday. That's when Earth's shadow will begin to nip at the moon. Totality — when Earth's shadow completely blankets the moon — will last 62 minutes, beginning at 11:41 p.m. EST Sunday.

If the skies are clear, the entire eclipse will be visible in North and South America, as well as Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Portugal and the French and Span-



In this Saturday Aug. 28, 2018 file photo, Earth starts to cast its shadow on the moon during a complete lunar eclipse seen from Jakarta, Indonesia.

Associated Press

ish coasts. The rest of Europe, as well as Africa, will have partial viewing before the moon sets. Some places will be livestreaming it, including the Griffith Ob-

servatory in Los Angeles. During totality, the moon will look red because of sunlight scattering off Earth's atmosphere. That's why an eclipsed moon

is sometimes known as a blood moon. In January, the full moon is also sometimes known as the wolf moon or great spirit moon. So informally speaking, the

upcoming lunar eclipse will be a super blood wolf — or great spirit — moon.

In the U.S., the eclipse will begin relatively early Sunday evening, making it easier for children to stay up and enjoy the show. Plus the next day is a federal holiday, with most schools closed. But the weather forecast for much of the U.S. doesn't look good.

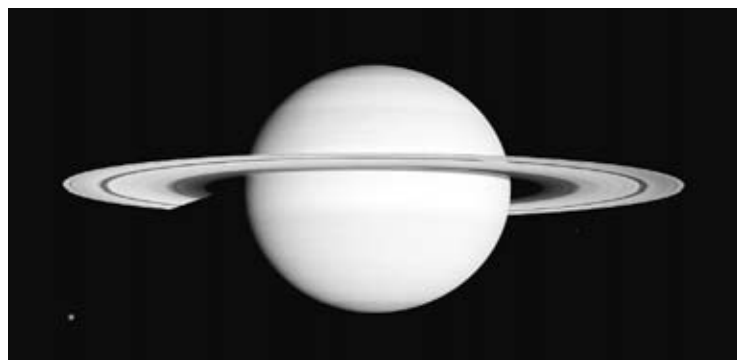
Parents "can keep their kids up maybe a little bit later," said, Hartigan, who will catch the lunar extravaganza from Houston. "It's just a wonderful thing for the whole family to see because it's fairly rare to have all these things kind of come together at the same time."

"The good thing about this is that you don't need any special equipment," he added.

Asia, Australia and New Zealand are out of luck. But they had prime viewing last year, when two total lunar eclipses occurred.

The next total lunar eclipse won't be until May 2021.

As for full-moon supermoons, this will be the first of three this year. The upcoming supermoon will be about 222,000 miles (357,300 kilometers) away. The Feb. 19 supermoon will be a bit closer and the one on March 20 will be the farthest. □



This July 23, 2008 image made available by NASA shows the planet Saturn, as seen from the Cassini spacecraft.

Associated Press

Scientists: Saturn spent billions of years without its rings

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— Saturn may have flown solo for billions of years — almost its entire existence — before getting its stunning set of rings, a new study suggests.

An Italian-led team reported Thursday in the journal Science that Saturn's primary rings appear to be just 10 million to 100 million years old. The gas giant Saturn, on the other hand, is 4.5 billion years old, like all the other planets in our solar system.

The findings are based on data collected by NASA's Cassini spacecraft while repeatedly diving between Saturn and its rings in 2017, shortly before its demise.

By estimating the mass of the rings through gravity measurements, the researchers gauged the age of the three main rings: A, B and C. It's still a mystery, though, how these icy rings formed. Scientists suspect a collision between two of Saturn's many moons or perhaps a moon and comet.

The rings are made mostly

of ice. The remaining 1 percent is dust and possibly organic contaminants. Overall, the material ranges in size from tiny particles, to pebbles, to boulders.

Lead researcher Luciano Iorio, a planetary scientist at Sapienza University in Rome, said orbital motion sprayed the dust and other contaminants onto the icy rings at a constant rate. His team calculated the length of time it would take for the contaminants to accumulate — it turned out to be a "short" 10 million to 100 million years. □

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Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver dies at 83

By HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mary Oliver, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet whose rapturous odes to nature and animal life brought her critical acclaim and popular affection, has died. She was 83. Bill Reichblum, Oliver's literary executor, said she died Thursday at her home in Hobe Sound, Florida. The cause of death was lymphoma.

"Thank you, Mary Oliver, for giving so many of us words to live by," Hillary Clinton wrote in a tweet. Ava DuVernay quoted from Oliver's poem "Praying" and fans online shared their favorite lines.

Author of more than 15 poetry and essay collections, Oliver wrote brief, direct pieces that sang of her worship of the outdoors and disdain for greed, despoilment and other human crimes. One of her favorite adjectives was "perfect," and rarely did she apply it to people. Her muses were owls and butterflies, frogs and geese, the changes of the seasons, the sun and the stars.

"In my outward appearance and life habits I hardly change — there's never been a day that my friends haven't been able to say, and at a distance, 'There's Oliver, still standing around in the weeds. There she is, still scribbling in her notebook,'" Oliver wrote in "Long Life," a book of essays published in 2004.

"But, at the center: I am

shaking; I am flashing like tinsel."

Like her hero Walt Whitman, whom she would call the brother she never had, Oliver didn't only observe mushrooms growing in a rainstorm or an owl calling from a black branch; she longed to know and become one with what she saw. She might be awed by the singing of goldfinches or, as in the poem "White Flowers," overcome by a long nap in a field.

—
Never in my life
had I felt myself so near
that porous line
where my own body was
done with
and the roots and the stems
and the flowers
began

—
Her poetry books included "White Pine," "West Wind" and the anthology "Devotions," which came out in 2017. She won the Pulitzer in 1984 for "American Primitive" and the National Book Award in 1992 for "New and Selected Poems." In 1998, she received the Lannan Literary Award for lifetime achievement. Her fans ranged from fellow poets Stanley Kunitz and Rita Dove to Hillary Clinton and Laura Bush.

"Although few poets have fewer human beings in their poems than Mary Oliver, it is ironic that few poets also go so far to help us forward," Stephen Dobyns wrote of her in The New York Times.

Oliver was a native of Ma-



In this Nov. 18, 1992 file photo, Mary Oliver appears at the National Book Awards in New York where she received the poetry award for her book "New and Selected Poems."

Associated Press

ple Heights in suburban Cleveland, and endured what she called a "dysfunctional" family in part by writing poems and building huts of sticks and grass in the nearby woods. Edna St. Vincent Millay was an early influence and, while in high school, Oliver wrote to the late poet's sister, Norma, asking if she could visit Millay's house in Austerlitz, New York. Norma Millay agreed and Oliver ended up spending several years there, organizing Edna St.

Vincent Millay's papers. While in Austerlitz, she also met the photographer Molly Malone Cook — "I took one look and fell, hook and tumble," Oliver later wrote — and the two were partners until Cook's death, in 2005. Much of Oliver's work was dedicated to Cook. Oliver studied at Ohio State University and Vassar College, but never graduated and later scorned much of her education as "a pre-established collection of certainties." She did teach

at Case Western University and Bennington College among other schools, although much of her work drew upon her childhood and the landscape around Provincetown.

"I am not very hopeful about the Earth remaining as it was when I was a child. It's already greatly changed. But I think when we lose the connection with the natural world, we tend to forget that we're animals, that we need the Earth," Oliver, who rarely spoke to the press, told Maria Shriver during a 2011 interview for Oprah Winfrey's "O" magazine.

"If I have any lasting worth, it will be because I have tried to make people remember what the Earth is meant to look like."

She wrote often of mortality, but with a spirit of gratitude and completion. In "Circles," she pronounced herself "content" not to live forever, having been "filled" by what she saw and believed. In "When Death Comes," she hoped that at the end of life she could look back and see herself as a "bride married to amazement."

—
When it's over, I don't want to wonder
if I have made of my life
something particular, and real.

I don't want to find myself
sighing and frightened,
or full of argument.
I don't want to end up
having simply visited the world. □

Anthony Rapp hopes he did his part to 'change the culture'

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Anthony Rapp said he came forward with sexual misconduct allegations against Kevin Spacey because he feared assaults could "keep happening" if he said nothing.

The younger actor spoke about the incident on the red carpet for the second season of his streaming series, "Star Trek: Discovery" on Thursday in New York. He said he hoped he did his part to "change the culture."

In 2017, Rapp alleged that Spacey made an unwanted sexual advance during a house party in 1986 when he was 14 and Spacey was 26. Rapp sought legal counsel at the time, but no charges were filed.

The incident was dormant until a flurry of sexual misconduct allegations surfaced about Harvey Weinstein, prompting Rapp to come forward. Spacey responded that he did not remember such an encounter but apologized if the

allegations were true.

More than year later, Rapp is proud of the decision to tell his story. "I know that it's something that needs continued movement forward and I'm going to keep doing my best to be a part of the movement forward," Rapp said.

"I was just concerned that that it would be something that could keep happening, so if I could do something that could make a difference, I was eager to." □



Actor Anthony Rapp attends the "Star Trek: Discovery" season two premiere at the Conrad New York on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

Celebs, athletes give 'Dragon Ball' pop culture super status

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Dragon Ball" may be a Japanese-born anime, but the series has become a major pop culture influencer for years. Rappers sprinkle references in their rhymes, athletes channel the character's super powers when making big plays and the franchise's star even made a towering appearance at November's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. That influence stateside is likely to grow Wednesday with the theatrical release of "Dragon Ball Super: Broly," the 20th film in the "Dragon Ball" franchise that spans video games, six animated spinoffs and more than 500 television episodes. It all started in 1984 when Akira Toriyama created the best-selling comic book series, known as a manga in Japan.

"I've been a fan for so long, and I know a lot of others are too. It's like a cult following," said De'Aaron Fox, the 21-year-old Sacramento Kings guard who owns a pair of Dragon Ball Z-themed basketball shoes. Chicago Bulls forward Lauri



In this Nov. 22, 2018 file photo, a balloon depicting Goku, from the "Dragon Ball" manga series, makes its way down Sixth Avenue during the 92nd annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

Associated Press

Markkanen and Golden State Warriors player Jordan Bell are also fans of the anime who have worn custom Dragon Ball-themed shoes in games. The franchise stars Goku, an alien who lands on Earth as a child and trains in martial arts through his adulthood, venturing across the

globe to find seven orbs, known as Dragon Balls. He and other human-looking aliens, known as Saiyans, occasionally transform into Super Saiyans with enormous power that unleashes a glowing aura and random arcs of electricity around them. The transformation turns their black

SPIKEY hair blonde. "Dragon Ball" really made an imprint on the world, particularly in entertainment," Fox said. "You hear so many references in songs, mostly from hip-hop and rap. Athletes are coming out as fans as well. Like People are saying they want to become like Goku.

It's a big deal." Its crossover appeal was evident during the Macy's Thanksgiving parade, when a 56-foot-tall, 70-foot-long Goku balloon floated above Manhattan, making the front page of The New York Times.

Many have followed "Dragon Ball" since they were kids, and the more famous fans incorporated it into their work, too.

Chris Brown posted an image on social media of a Dragon Ball tattooed on his leg and Goku's face painted on a red Lamborghini. Chance the Rapper has mentioned the anime in two songs. Before a wrestling match, Ronda Rousey wore a shirt with her favorite character and "cartoon crush" Vegeta, the prince of the Saiyans who is an ally of Goku.

The Super Saiyan form is popular in the hip-hop community. Los Angeles Lakers guard Lonzo Ball along with Big Sean, Lil Uzi Vert, The Weeknd and Childish Gambino has rapped about achieving Super Saiyan status in their songs. □

Maggie Rogers, excitingly, delivers on early promise



This cover image released by Capitol Records shows "Heard It In a Past Life," by Maggie Rogers.

Associated Press

By MARK KENNEDY
Maggie Rogers, "Heard It in a Past Life" (Capitol Records)
The moment most people first heard Maggie Rogers was likely memorable. The song she sang in a viral vid-

eo clip wasn't quite finished but the promise — the sheer talent on offer — was starkly apparent. No less a respected musical influencer than Pharrell Williams apparently agreed. Williams may have unwittingly

aided Rogers' development but she has charted her own course and the singer-songwriter emerges this month with her eagerly anticipated — and astonishingly good — debut full-length album, "Heard It in a Past Life."

Over 12 tracks, Rogers explores the curiously fertile melding of folk and dance, with her distinctive and warm voice floating amid harmonies or a relentless, industrial beat.

Rogers gained attention in 2016 when Williams helped critique students in her New York University music master class. In a video of that session, Pharrell's stunned response to the innovative beauty of Rogers' "Alaska" is as pleasurable as listening to Rogers' low-key, matter-of-fact confident musical vision. □

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BRUCE WILLIS | SAMUEL L. JACKSON
GLASS
MON-THU 5:35 | 8:15
FRI 5:35 | 8:15 | 10:55
SAT 2:55 | 5:35 | 8:15 | 10:55
SUN 2:55 | 5:35 | 8:15

BRYAN CRANSTON | KEVIN HART
the upside
MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10 (PG-13)

SEAN SCHEMEL | CHRISTOPHER SABAT
DRAGON BALL SUPER
MON-THU 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15
FRI 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
SAT 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:30
SUN 2:30 | 4:45 | 7:00 | 9:15
SPANISH
SAT-SUN 1:00 (PG-13)

JANDINO ASPORAA | LILIANA DE VRIES
BON BINI HOLLAND 2
DUTCH
MON-THU 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30
FRI 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
SAT 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35
SUN 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 (PG-13)

JASON MOMOA | AMBER HEARD
AQUAMAN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 3:45 | 6:10 | 9:05
SAT-SUN 3:15 | 6:10 | 9:05 (PG-13)

HAILEE STEINFELD | DYLAN O'BRIEN
BUMBLEBEE
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:45
SAT-SUN 2:30 | 4:45 (PG-13)

BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD | ASHLEY JUDD
A DOG'S WAY HOME
MON-FRI 4:50 | 7:00
SAT-SUN 2:40 | 4:50 | 7:00 (PG)

DEBORAH ANN WOLL | TAYLOR RUSSELL
ESCAPE ROOM
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 7:10 | 9:25
FRI-SAT 7:10 | 9:25 | 11:40 (PG-13)

RAMI MALEK | LUCY BOYNTON
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
2 GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-SUN 9:10 (PG-13)

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James Blake, music's most requested collaborator, opens up

By MESFIN FEKADU

NEW YORK (AP) — Some people get lots of invitations. James Blake gets the right ones. He's had a role on two of the greatest albums of the last decade — Beyoncé's delicious "Lemonade" and Kendrick Lamar's Pulitzer Prize-winner "Damn." He worked on another impactful and culturally relevant album, Jay-Z's "4:44"; he's part of Travis Scott's pop star breakthrough "Astroworld"; and he was called on to contribute to the soundtrack to the uber-successful and powerful "Black Panther," earning him two Grammy nominations.

Those key projects helped Blake, a British singer-songwriter-producer with a distinct downbeat electronic sound, develop and expand as an artist — growth heard throughout his latest project, "Assume Form."

"I have more people involved possibly in this process than before. ...I had the help of some really inspiring people," Blake said of his fourth album, out Friday. "It feels like there's a team rather than a solo effort."

Blake produced, wrote and co-mixed the album, but helpers include co-producer Dominic Maker of the duo Mount Kimbie and Nathan Boddy, who co-mixed and mastered the album. Andre 3000, Metro Boomin and Scott also lend their vocals to songs.

The decision to invite others into his space was natural, Blake said.

"I think I was probably sick of being the mad scientist at home," he said. "It's so much more socially rewarding to be around other people. It creates a whole different universe in your mind."

Blake, 30, isn't popping up on every radio hit like Lil Wayne once did or how Quavo has assumed that role in the last two years, but the invites he's gotten have been epic, and by music's most elite.

The same year he released his self-titled debut, Beyoncé listed "The Wilhelm Scream" from his album as



This Jan. 16, 2019 photo shows James Blake posing for a portrait at the SLS Hotel in Los Angeles to promote his latest album "Assume Form."

Associated Press

one of her favorites of 2011. They later collaborated on her ground-breaking "Lemonade" album, released in 2016.

Blake then collaborated with Frank Ocean. Then Scott. Then Lamar. Then Jay-Z. And then Lamar again. And then Scott again.

"What I liked about what we did together was that they chose things that really felt like me. I felt that they were so sensitive to the contribution with the way they handled it and the way they incorporated it into their records," he said. "It's really nice to just be expected to come in and be myself. I think that was very sweet in all those cases. It wasn't a case of crowbarring me into something. It was very tailored."

From working with Beyoncé, Blake said he learned to limit his artistry.

"When I first worked with Beyoncé, there was kind of a moment where my perspective changed a little bit on where I could be in music. I think I've always felt, or at least for a long time, that my position in music was to bubble un-

der mainstream ... (and) be kind of like a musician's musician," he said. "She really put me in a new context, and I think in that way she did me an absolutely massive favor."

Listening to "Assume Form" proves Blake is more than a musician's musician — and that he could be on his way to pop star status.

Underneath the heavy and jagged beats, there's a sense of hopefulness and love in the honest and raw lyrics delivered by Blake. "Can't Believe the Way We Flow" and "Into the Red" feel like love songs, but not typical ones. "Barefoot In the Park," featuring Latin singer Rosalia, is a sensual number that is addictive; and "Mile High," with Scott and Metro Boomin, could fit on multiple Spotify playlists.

"There are some moments of doubt on the record, but I would definitely say it's a love-song album," he said.

"Assume Form" — it's not a statement to say, 'Here I am. I'm great now. I've made it.' It's more to say, 'I'm still in the process. It is a process,'" he said. "Rather it's realizing you're wrong

about things and swallowing your ego, or listening and opening up, trying to evolve that way, or trying to collaborate more. Getting out of some of the aspects of the skin that you're in, that you are frustrated with. It is a process and it's OK to still be assuming form. The song itself, 'Assume Form,' really just says, 'Here are my uncomfortable traits.'"

His past albums have some feeling he's always down and out. But he said that's not the case.

"If someone says that I make sad music, I don't take it as an insult. I think there's room for every emotion in music. I guess I write autobiographically and if I feel reflective at the time, then I'll write something reflective. Also, music being an outlet means that you don't always feel the way you felt when you're writing all the time. If anything, writing is a creative outlet for emotion, or it is for me. So, in those moments maybe I felt that way, but it doesn't mean that's how I always feel."

"If anything, my goal is to maybe more accurately portray a broader range

of emotions in my music. I think partially this is what this album does," he added. "I have had more of a range, from happiness to doubt to self-doubt to suspicion that the world might not be as good as it feels now, forever."

Blake will get to take the new songs to another level when he performs them live on his North American tour, kicking off Feb. 18 in Atlanta.

A week before that he'll be competing at the Grammys for best rap performance and best rap song with "King's Dead" from the "Black Panther" soundtrack. Blake shares the nomination with Lamar, Jay Rock and Future.

"I'm honored to be asked to work on that 'Black Panther' soundtrack. I was aware of the gravity of what they were doing, and I think it was just really sweet to be asked," said Blake, who also appears on "Bloody Waters" from the soundtrack.

"I didn't take it lightly, especially to be working with Kendrick himself. I think that was great. I just wanted to approach it as well as I could, really." □

Elegance is an attitude

Kate Winslet
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